

## Erin's mother writes: "Unfinished Work"

By Diane Ames as told to  
Lounette Templeton

The American Consulate called me in Oklahoma City early Oct. 3 from Guangzhou, China. They assured me that my daughter, Erin Thomas, was alive, despite news reports that two Americans had died in the fiery crash landing of a hijacked Chinese airliner at the Guangzhou airport.

Later in the day, Erin spoke to me on a mobile phone from her hospital room.

She had first, second, and third-degree burns on her legs, and she was suffering from pneumonia caused by smoke inhalation. But she was alive.

I began making arrangements to fly to Hong Kong with my ex-husband, Paul. Whatever had happened between the two of us did not negate the love we shared for Erin and our other three children. From Hong Kong, Paul and I planned to travel to Guangzhou, where Erin was hospitalized.

Questions flooded my mind. How badly did the smoke harm Erin's lungs? How serious were the burns? Was she getting the treatment she needed? How was my child coping with the emotional trauma she had suffered? How could she manage when she couldn't even speak the language of her doctors and nurses? Could she be moved?

I kept the television and radio on. I compared reports with the rest of the family. Over and over, I played the video of the crash taped from the evening news, looking for something — anything — I hadn't seen before.

I stayed near the telephone, hoping for further word from the consulate or CSI (Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist service organization that helped Erin get an English-teaching position in China). I knew many others were praying, but I was too numb to utter a prayer.

I remembered that my son, Shawn, who is a pastor, had recently received a letter from Erin which he was to print and mail to her friends. Since he had not mailed the letter yet, he needed to write a cover letter to tell what had happened. I called him.

Shawn was one step ahead of me. He read Erin's letter to me and then a brief note he had written which ended with a Scripture passage. I heard the words: "For what is life? To me, it is Christ. Death then, will bring more."

But if by continuing to live I can do

more worthwhile work, then . . . I will stay on with you . . . to add to your progress and joy in the faith, so . . . you will have even more reason to be proud of me in your life in union with Christ Jesus."

He was reading from the first chapter of Philippians, but for a split second, I thought it was a continuation of Erin's letter.

I put down the receiver. I wasn't thinking or feeling anything. It was as if a timeout had been called for me — timeout from the stress I was facing, timeout from whatever was waiting for me in the future. It is called "perfect peace." Erin would be all right. She had unfinished work to do for the Lord.

Pam, our second daughter, called a few minutes later. She had felt a great sense of peace that morning as she read a passage from the Bible: Philippians 1:21-26.

The message God gave to me and my family in Oklahoma stayed with me as I traveled to China a few days later.

Charlie Wilson, a Hong Kong-based representative for CSI, met Paul and me in Guangzhou. Charlie was Erin's friend and colleague. He had arrived at her bedside the day after the accident. He had broken the news to her that their friend and co-worker, Mary Anna Gilbert — the other American passenger on the plane — had not been found.

Erin was in better condition than I had imagined. She was in one of China's most modern hospitals with a team of 11 doctors hovering over her. She would need skin grafts and physical therapy, but her prognosis was good. Emotionally, she was coping extremely well. She was already talking about resuming her work in China when she was able.

Later that night, I told Charlie how Philippians 1:21-26 had comforted me the morning after we received news of the accident. A surprised look came over his face. That morning was the same time he had arrived at Erin's bedside in Guangzhou.

"What can I read for you from the Bible?" he had asked Erin. She asked him to read the first chapter of Philippians.

Templeton is a missionary serving in Hong Kong. Ames is the mother of CSI worker, Erin Thomas, who has returned to the U.S.

## HMB appoints task force for 1996 Atlanta Olympics

ATLANTA (BP) — A special task force to coordinate ministries during the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta has been appointed by Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

In September, the International Olympic Committee awarded the 1996 games to Atlanta, the hometown of Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board. For two weeks during that summer, Atlanta will become the temporary home to 625,000 international visitors.

Bill Lee, director of the HMB's special ministries department, will chair the task force. Bobby Sunderland, special assistant for promotion and project development in the evangelism section, will serve as vice chairman. Ten other HMB staffers representing a wide spectrum of expertise will serve on the task force.

Lewis said the HMB task force will coordinate efforts with the Georgia Baptist Convention. The HMB has sponsored ministries at previous Olympics, most recently at the 1988 winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada, and the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 8, 1990

Published Since 1877



**Fact of life** — Gas masks are now a fact of life in Israel, as illustrated by 6-year-old Joel Smith, left, son of Southern Baptist workers David and Marsha Smith. Smith, standing beside an Israeli friend, donned the mask during a school drill to prepare for possible chemical attack from Iraq. Much of the

Israeli population is obtaining gas masks to prepare for the threat. Southern Baptist workers also are coping with increasing anti-Americanism among Palestinians. (BP Photo by David Smith)

## Baptist workers face new strains in Israel

By David Smith

PETAH TIQVA, Israel (BP) — Southern Baptist representatives in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza are adapting to changing circumstances, including Iraqi threats of chemical warfare and increasing anti-Americanism.

"People are nervous about the situation, although no ministries have been curtailed," said Tom Hocutt of Birmingham, Ala., administrator of the Baptist Convention in Israel. Families with children are under the most strain, he said. Nearly 50 Southern Baptist representatives currently work in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has repeatedly threatened to attack Israel with chemical weapons if Iraq or Kuwait are invaded by the international forces now massed in Saudi Arabia. Much of the Israeli population is obtaining gas masks to prepare for the threat. Meanwhile, violence between Palestinians and Jews in Israel — and Palestinian anger over U.S. actions in the Middle East — are rising.

Sonny Rogerson of Georgetown, S.C., a Southern Baptist representative who works with the West Bank Baptist Society, said he keeps track of his family members at all times. So does Connie Anthony, who works in Jerusalem.

Anthony's greatest fear is that her

husband, John, would be at work, the children at school, and "me at home" when a crisis occurred. "The worst-case scenario for us is for the family to be separated," she said. The Anthonys are from Mount Ida and Hope, Ark.

Rogerson has had to reschedule many ministry activities.

"I have to be real careful where I go and when, since I've been hit by rocks or bottles five times in the last month," he reported. "I try to drive a beat-up van to avoid being targeted by stone throwers. I try to look at what's ahead whenever I go anywhere to see if there's any group or confrontation. I also try to keep up with the news to see if trouble is brewing so I won't put myself or the family in danger."

"The situation is the same as it's been for three years (since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories), but now it's more intense and brutal," Rogerson added.

Jack Hodges of Hildebran, N.C., works in Gaza. "Over the last three years we've learned to deal with a lot of new things, and I think that's given us some ability to deal more objectively with these new threats," he said.

Among the new threats are anti-American remarks and vandalism against Baptist institutions commit-

ted by Palestinian youths, as well as an increase in stone throwing.

"We're revamping our contingency plans. We realize things could escalate and we might need to get out. The worst thing is that we might have to leave," Hodges said.

"Saddam Hussein has changed things," added Rogerson, who sees a resurgence in Arabism and Arab pride. Rogerson is concerned about a possible regional war in which Arabs would see America as an aggressor, followed by a Palestinian venting of anger against all things American.

"Some Palestinian Muslim friends have told me if there's war I shouldn't show my face," he said.

Some foreign businesses have ordered their employees to leave Israel, but Southern Baptist representatives in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza have not yet exercised that option. Each Southern Baptist family can choose to leave at any time, however.

"The only thing that keeps me here is that God has not directed me anywhere else," Rogerson concluded. "There's no indication that it's time for me to leave or that this is not where he wants me, even if it means death. It's better for me to die in his will than to live outside of his will."

Smith is press representative for Southern Baptist workers in Israel.



# Editorials . . . by Guy Henderson

## Passing the baton

The year was 1877. J. B. Gambrell took the threads of several small Baptist papers and began to weave them into the Baptist Record. From the humble beginning in a house in Clinton the paper has grown to be the fourth largest Baptist paper in the Southern Baptist Convention. Side by side with the convention it has been a constructive and unifying force in forging the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

During those 113 years the Baptist Record has been blessed with good leadership. P. I. Lipsey brought it to erudition and is credited with writing the editorials resulting in establishing New Orleans Seminary.

A. L. Goodrich brought a measure of practicality, and W. C. Fields solidified it with clear editing and large circulation. Joe Odle blessed us

with spiritual convictions and a cooperative spirit. The Every Family Plan helped the paper to go from 4,000 to 118,000 today. For a few pennies a week there can be a positive Baptist word in every Baptist home.

For 14 years Don McGregor has edited the paper with refreshing clarity and appeal to the readers. Not all agreed with him on every issue but he sought to be fair and impartial amidst the controversy. I've known Don to be a competent and compassionate editor. He never rejoiced over the downfall or failure of an individual and was not one to gloat over victories. He has a profound reverence for the truth. In 36 years of journalism he has consistently believed that Baptists should be told the facts.

In his first editorial, dated Sept. 2, 1976, Don wrote, "It has been a thrill

to be here and know the Baptist Record is moving around the curve full speed, on course, and looking great . . . we pledge to 'turn on the steam' in an all out effort." Don kept this pledge and the Baptist Record will continue full speed, on course, and looking great.

I consider it an honor to be part of a paper with such a noble heritage. It is with a grateful heart to our Lord and with a fervent prayer for his leadership that I accept the baton. Bill Causey has geared the Baptist Building personnel to help the churches in winning Mississippi and the world to Jesus. Unequivocally the Baptist Record desires to be a part of this. The sun has set for yesterday. This is the day to lay aside the things that would hinder us and run with patience and love the race before us.



## Guest opinion . . .

## The legacy of gambling

By Wm. B. Alexander

We have at least five elections coming up within the next 30 days concerning casino gambling in Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock counties on the coast and in Adams and Washington counties on the Mississippi River. Warren County will have its election a little later. Both on the coast and on the Mississippi River it is called dockside gambling.

They call it dockside gambling because, although the gambling will be on a ship or a barge, the ship or barge will be tied to the shore or dock and will not ever move from the shore or dock. In fact, the ship or barge will not even have an engine.

This is casino gambling just as much as if the casinos were built on the main street in Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport, Pass Christian, Natchez, Vicksburg, or Greenville. These will be gambling casinos just like they have had in Las Vegas since 1931 and in Atlantic City since 1978.

Nearly every state in the nation has turned down casino gambling. Louisiana has, Florida has, New York has, and nearly every other state has except Nevada and New Jersey. Casino gambling is the worst kind of gambling. It is worse than horse races, dog races, or any other type of gambling.

In these other states, when casino gambling was proposed, the press got busy and found out just what casino gambling is and advised the people. Why has the press in Mississippi been so strangely silent on casino gambling?

What is the result of casino gambling in Las Vegas and Atlantic City? Nevada leads the nation in crime. Las Vegas leads the nation in the highest per capita crime rate.

There are 10,000 prostitutes in Las

Vegas. One out of every nine women in the area between the ages of 15 and 39 is a prostitute.

Atlantic City legalized casino gambling in 1978. In Atlantic City serious crimes more than tripled in number from 1977 to 1985. In 1977 there were 4,689 crimes, and in 1985 there were 14,914 crimes. During this same period the population of Atlantic City decreased by 6,000 people. Prominent among those committing these crimes have been Atlantic City's mayors. Three of the last six mayors have been sentenced to jail on political corruption charges.

In 1989 there were 14,536 reported crimes, or 401 per 1,000 residents, the highest rate in the United States. In 1989 the mayor and three city councilmen were charged with bribery and misconduct. According to the Washington Post, there are a dozen organized crime families operating in Atlantic City.

Street thugs drawn to the people and the money saturated the streets leading to the casinos and the public parking areas. The police department of Atlantic City was faced with 2,000 percent increase in demand for its services over this four-year period between 1977 and 1980. The budget for law enforcement in Atlantic City increased from \$5.7 million in 1977 to \$14.2 million in 1980.

There is no question but if casino gambling were legalized in the six counties mentioned in Mississippi, that it would increase crime substantially and impact heavily on the entire state.

Perhaps just as bad as the increase in crime and prostitution and drug sales would be the effect on government and governmental officials if

casino gambling moved into our state. Experience has shown in Nevada and New Jersey that there is enough money in casino gambling to control statewide elections.

Casino gambling could finance a governors' race or a United States Senate race, and they do in these places. Casino gambling will corrupt not only the local police and the local politicians, but it will also corrupt politicians statewide.

A recent study shows that about 50 percent of Atlantic City's customers in the casinos come from a 50 mile radius. The casinos relocate millions of dollars that otherwise would have been spent on normal customer-related businesses. Jobs created by casinos come at the expense of jobs lost to regular businesses such as clothing, furniture, food, and banks.

The population of Atlantic City has shrunk by about 20 percent. It has no carwash, no movie theater, and only one supermarket. It is practically a ghost town where nobody wants to live.

This is not a "local and private matter." If big time mafia-type casino gambling moves into the Gulf Coast and the river counties, it is going to effect us all statewide. In the long run, we will lose jobs and we will certainly lose our reputation as a good place in which to live and raise a family.

While only the people in the affected counties will have the opportunity to vote, the rest of us should lend our support to those who are attempting to keep this cesspool out of our borders.

Wm. B. Alexander is an attorney in Cleveland, Miss. He is a former president pro-tem of the Mississippi Senate.

## Our state convention

In Acts 15:4 we note Paul and Barnabas "were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them."

Now, this was not the first church conference nor convention; but it is good to see the early churches getting together for reports.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention will meet next week for the 155th Session to declare all things that God has done with us. The convention is composed of messengers "from Baptist churches in harmony and cooperation with the purposes and actions of the convention."

Committees will report, resolutions will be presented, and officers will be elected. A budget will be adopted, and new and old business will be discussed. Sermons, Bible studies, and prayer will be important to all of us.

Most people spend a lot of time on Sunday morning getting ready for

church and perhaps less time getting their attitudes ready. Our theme, "That They All May Be One . . ." was selected with great care. "Endeavoring to keep the unity of Spirit in the bond of peace" calls for an effort. We must strive for this unity. Peace, like war, is waged.

If we come together in the right spirit, the sermons and music will be inspirational. Business will be conducted in an amicable manner, and love and good will will prevail.

"Thy will be done" is a very important part of the Christian's prayer life. It sounds so much better than the "sharp contention" of Paul and Barnabas or a church full like "Diotrephes," who loveth to have the pre-eminence among them."

"Thy will be done" is to acknowledge the Lord and ask him to direct our paths. Let's pray for an inspiring convention that will send us back to our work encouraged.

## Baptist Beliefs . . .

## Address and prayer

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called . . . saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." — Romans 1:7

The address coming at this point follows the ancient pattern. "All" (pasin) is without the definite article. This means that Paul addresses each single one of the whole of "the ones being in Rome." Again as in verse 1, "to be" is not in the Greek text. So "called saints." "Saints" (hagiois) means holy ones, sanctified ones, set apart ones, set apart to God's service.

Most interpreters see verse 7b as a greeting. Greeks greeted one another with "grace" (chaire); Jews did the

same with "peace" (shalom). But here Paul uses the noun charis, not the verb chaire. So I see this as a prayer. Paul used this in all his epistles, except in 1 and 2 Timothy. In these two letters he adds "mercy" (not in the Greek text of Titus). Apparently Timothy was having a tough time in Ephesus, so he also needed "mercy."

Thus Paul prays that the Christians in Rome may experience God's grace and peace. And they come in that order — first grace, and then peace. Both come from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 114

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 39

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor . . . . . Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor . . . . . Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Manager . . . . . Evelyn Keyes  
Editorial Associate . . . . . Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager . . . . . Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper . . . . . Betty Anne Bailey  
Proofreader/Secretary . . . . . Irene Martin

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Ferrell Cork, Jackson, chairman; Bruce Hill, Lexington; Raymond Martin Jr., Jackson, vice-chairman; Billy Thames, Wesson; Tommy Tutor, Clarksdale; Randy Von Kanel, Hattiesburg; ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary, Jackson.  
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to  
The Editor, Baptist Record  
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



## President lists advantages in new convention format

By Eddie Hamilton, president  
Mississippi Baptist Convention

November 13-14 are the dates set for our 1990 Mississippi Baptist Convention. Last year our convention accepted the recommendation for a new convention format. We will have a full two-day convention with six sessions rather than five sessions, conducted over parts of three days.

This new format will allow several distinct advantages. The entire day on Monday can be given to pre-convention activities. The Convention Board, along with other convention connections, will be meeting for pre-convention meetings.

Our Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference will have an extra day and evening for its activities. The Pastors' Wives conference will also be meeting. We are also returning to an earlier format of having a Brotherhood/WMU rally on Monday afternoon and evening.

Convention sessions are scheduled to be more compact since we have an additional session. Worship will be emphasized in each session. We will conclude our convention with a gigantic worship session Wednesday evening with Joel Gregory as guest speaker and the choir from Temple Church, Hattiesburg, leading out in the music worship.

I know that you will want to be a part of our 1990 Convention. We are expecting a large number of messengers. I hope that you will plan to be present. Hamilton is pastor, Oak Forest, Jackson.

## Garland McKee named director of evangelism



Garland McKee

Mississippi native J. Garland McKee, 60, was elected director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Tuesday.

The MBCB Executive Committee, acting on recommendation of Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the board, unanimously elected McKee who will begin service Jan. 1, 1991.

McKee has been a full time vocation

evangelist since 1987. He was evangelism director for the Union Baptist Association in Houston, Tex., 1987-89, and organized McKee Ministries, Jan. 1, 1990.

A native of Greenville, McKee is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth.

He was licensed to preach the gospel at First Church, Marks, and ordained at First Church, Greenville, his home church.

Pastorates include First Church, Pearland, Tex., 1976-87; Istrouma Church, Baton Rouge, 1963-76; Memorial Church, Houston, Tex., 1959-63; First Church, Kerens, Tex., 1957-59; Lawn Terrace Church, Mineral Wells, Tex., 1956-57; and West Keechi Church, Jack County, Tex., 1954-55.

He is certified in Continuing Witness Training, Lay Evangelism, and Friendship Evangelism. Frequently used by the Home Mission Board and other SBC agencies, McKee has consulted in evangelism and has preached in most states and in several foreign countries.

McKee has been an executive board member in Texas and in Louisiana, and was a trustee for Louisiana College and the Louisiana Baptist Foundation.

Mrs. McKee, the former June Richardson, is a native of Marydell, Mississippi, in Leake County. She and her husband have one son, Gil, 20.

## Cotton joins MBMC staff

C. Gerald Cotton has joined Mississippi Baptist Medical Center as associate director/chief operating officer.

He was formerly vice-president of operations for new ventures at Baptist Medical Center, Birmingham, Ala. Prior to his position at Baptist in Birmingham, Cotton was executive vice-president/chief operating of-

ficer at East End Memorial Hospital in Birmingham. Before moving to Alabama, the Macon, Miss. native served as assistant hospital director at University Medical Center in Jackson. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Mississippi State University and master's degree in hospital administration from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He did his hospital administration residency at UMC.

Cotton and his wife Sue have one son, Bret, who is a senior in high school.

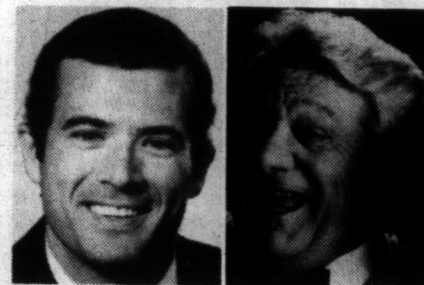
## Pre-convention meetings Nov. 12

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptists will be holding a series of pre-convention meetings on Nov. 12. Speakers for the meetings include Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Jerry Clower, Mississippi comedian and Baptist layman.

Messengers — ministers and laypersons alike — will gather Nov. 13-14 at First Church, Jackson, from the 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches, to do the business of the convention.

The pre-convention meetings, however, are primarily informational and inspirational. All sessions are in the facilities of First Church, Jackson. The meetings are a Pastors' Con-



Register

Clower

ference, a Ministers' Wives Conference, and a Lay Missions Conference.

The Pastors' Conference begins at 10:30 a.m. with two simultaneous pre-conference seminars entitled "The Pastor as the Preacher," led by Robert Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, and "The Pastor as the Leader," led by Randy Von Kanel, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg.

At 1:15 p.m. the Pastors' Conference reconvenes. Afternoon speakers will be Stan Fornea, Ken Alford, and Morris Chapman.

Fornea is pastor of First Church, Cleveland; Alford is pastor of Mor-

risson Heights Church, Clinton; and Chapman, SBC president, is pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Evening speakers for the session beginning at 6:45, include Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile.

Musicians for the conference include the Morrison Heights Church quartet, choir, orchestra, and drama group.

J. Roy McComb, pastor of First Church, Columbia, is president of the Pastors' Conference.

A Ministers' Wives' Conference will



Fornea

Alford

(See **PRE-CONVENTION** on page 5)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 8, 1990

Published Since 1877

## "That they all may be one . . ."

By Tim Nicholas



Causey

Hamilton

The 1990 Mississippi Baptist Convention will take place Nov. 13-14 at First Church, Jackson.

Taking a unity theme, "That they all may be one . . ." the convention will consist of messengers from up to 2,000 Southern Baptist churches in the state.

According to Gary Berry, chairman of the committee on order of business, the theme is from John, chapter 17, verse 21, where Jesus is praying, asking that Christians be united "that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Berry is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

The convention opens at 8:50 a.m. Nov. 13, and concludes at 8:30 the

following evening. Registration at the church for messengers opens at 2 p.m., Nov. 12.

Business of the convention will include consideration of a budget to fund local and worldwide missions, Christian higher education, and child care; election of convention officers; and discussion of resolutions.

The Cooperative Program budget, as proposed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is \$20,867,156,



Hart

Pollard

a 6.6 percent increase over the 1990 budget of \$19,581,130.

A total of 36.75 percent of the total is slated for Southern Baptist Convention causes outside the state.

Just before the convention, on Nov. 12, the convention board will consider a proposal to increase that percentage to 37 percent, increasing the total budget to \$20,949,962. However, convention messengers may vote any budget they choose regardless of the board's recommendation.

Convention President Eddie Hamilton, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, is eligible for a second one year term. He will deliver his address at 10:55 during the open-



Pray

Yancey

ing session.

Other inspirational speakers will also be a part of the convention's activities. The convention sermon will be preached Wednesday morning at 10:55 by Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Quitman.

A series of four devotional messages will be presented by Frank Pollard, pastor of the host church, First, Jackson. His "Bible Treasures," as the devotionals are called, will be given during each morning and afternoon session of the convention.

Other speakers include Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Henry Blackaby, of the Home Mission Board staff; and Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Texas. Causey will speak at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday; Blackaby will speak at 3:50 p.m. Wednesday; and Gregory will be the closing speaker at 7:50 p.m., Wednesday.

Musical accompanists for the con-

(See **ONE** on page 8)



Gregory

Blackaby



## Breakthrough project begins pilot phase

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Great Commission Breakthrough project could revolutionize Sunday School work and church efforts to grow, project planners and participants in a pilot project training session contended.

More than 160 people participated in a three-day training session Oct. 15-17 in Nashville and were commissioned as Great Commission Breakthrough consultants for the one-year pilot project that is to involve as many as 540 churches.

After the pilot, project planners at the Sunday School Board expect to train as many as 7,000 consultants who will work with every interested church and mission in the Southern Baptist Convention to develop Great Commission Breakthrough action plans.

The Nashville session was the second of five regional training conferences. The first session was at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Others will be at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center; Dallas; and Tampa, Fla.

Project architects and newly trained and commissioned consultants agreed the project was "sent of God" and marks a "new beginning for

Southern Baptists in Sunday School work."

Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School division, described how the idea developed "as if God was telling me what we needed to do."

"No one needed to tell me the difficulty of going into every church. But God is a God of the impossible. There are many who have seen the plan and believe in the dream," he said.

In Mississippi, state convention-trained consultants have been working with individual churches in ways similar to the Great Commission plan for the past two years, according to Keith Williams, consultant for adult work in the state convention Sunday School department.

Twenty-seven trained consultants each spent six months assisting churches with Sunday School growth plans, Williams said. He attributed a 1989 statewide Sunday School enrollment increase in part to the individualized consultations.

"This helps churches see that the state convention or the Sunday School Board can come in and help them. The customized training does help churches decide what specific things they need to do to grow," he said.

## Long-suffering Angola looks toward brighter postwar future

By Craig Bird

LUANDA, Angola (BP) — A bleeding civil war has left Angola near-comatose. But the 15-year hemorrhage may soon end, many Angolans believe.

Even as the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the opposing National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) jockey for advantage in peace talks, Angolans talk of a prosperous future.

Sharing that outlook, even as they have shared the pain and hardships, are Angolan Baptists and six Southern Baptist missionaries in Angola. (Curtis and Betty Dixon develop churches and do Theological Education by Extension. Mark and Susan Hatfield do agricultural evangelism. Nick and Teri Cominellis are medical missionaries. Another couple is studying language in Portugal, preparing to work in Angola.)

Earlier this year the Baptist Convention of Angola joined other evangelical groups in a call for the MPLA to guide the nation to multiparty democracy. They insisted an end to fighting would allow a return to economic strength Angola knew before 1975, when it was a leading exporter of coffee and oil and a net exporter of food. The MPLA announced Oct. 26 it will accept a multiparty system by March and hold elections within three years.

"When farmers can grow and transport their crops without fear of attack we will soon be able to feed ourselves again," the churches argued, pointing out that the major problems the country faces are rooted in the war waged on the one-party state by UNITA.

The nation's spiritual prospects glow brightly also. "I suppose — no, I know — the future will be joyful," insisted 75-year-old Baptist pastor Daniel Correia, using a Portuguese adjective that literally means laughter. "When the war ends Baptists will be able to work freely all over and soon we will reach all of Angola for the

Lord. After that we will start reaching across our borders to other countries."

Such attitudes seem to contradict the bleak surface of Luanda, Angola's capital. The once-beautiful Atlantic Ocean seaport suffers almost constant electricity and water shortages as UNITA pushes its aim of "making the capital unlivable." Amputees, usually in combat fatigues, seem uncountable.

The reddish hair that signals malnourishment in children grows on many small heads. The railroad, once throbbing with commerce as it hauled in products from Zambia and Zimbabwe along with Angolan goods, now runs only 20 kilometers beyond the Luanda city limits.

The "parallel market" (a euphemism for black market) flourishes openly. Crowds jam fences outside the three food stores that accept American dollars to buy products from those fortunate enough to have hard currency. The same goods are sold again at technically illegal markets. Uniformed soldiers and police, often driving government vehicles, are regular customers. The "parallel market" is the only place where medicine is available.

The official currency exchange rate of 29.6 Angolan Kwanza to one U.S. dollar has been frozen since 1976. On the street that same dollar is worth 3,000 Kwanza. And prices, other than in severely understocked government stores, reflect the real exchange rates. That means missionaries who function on the official rate cannot afford to buy vegetables in the market or baskets from a woman weaving under a tree along the roadside.

Before the dollar stores opened about a year ago, it was tough for missionaries to follow the biblical command (and Foreign Mission Board policy) to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's" by following government regulations.

"It wasn't mainly for our own convenience, either," said Curtis Dixon. "It hurt to know we could divert funds to the black market and buy more food to feed hungry people, teach more students at the Bible institute, build more churches," he said. "But the Bible is pretty plain on that, and ultimately our Christian witness has to come first."

A snapshot of the Baptist Convention of Angola also looks grim. "We have about 80 churches and 150 missions," said David N'Kozi, convention executive secretary. "Numbers are hard because about half of our churches are in areas controlled by UNITA. We haven't had contact with some of them since 1975."

War-driven inflation rates keep budgets under siege. Training of leaders is disrupted or destroyed by travel restrictions. Worship services are canceled by the government so people can attend political rallies. And soldiers, women, and children are killed and maimed by bullets and bombs.

Maybe the only way to maintain hope is to look beyond the present and focus on that shifting horizon called "peace."

N'Kozi can hardly wait for Angola to reach that horizon so the convention can see what the believers in UNITA territory have been doing all these years.

"It's going to be just like China!" he exclaims with a grin, his eyes sparkling. "People couldn't believe how the Chinese church grew during decades of isolation. And I believe God is still working in churches we can't contact. When peace comes we'll find that God has been with us all the time."

God hasn't been absent in churches N'Kozi does have records on. Since 1978, despite civil war, Baptist work has spread from six to 12 of Angola's 18 provinces. The number of ordained pastors has increased from 12 to 55.

In Luanda in that period, under the watchful eye of a Marxist government that didn't even grant legal recognition to the Baptist convention until 1987, Baptists grew from two struggling churches to seven churches and 15 mission congregations in 1990.

Many of them overflow. Latecomers sit in the balcony of First Baptist Church. Redemption Baptist Church, where N'Kozi is pastor, crams 600 people into its "being-completed-by-stages-as-we-can-pay-for-it" building.

And a commitment to stewardship has thrived in the hard times.

"The convention had a cooperative program where churches pooled funds for common work, but after Angolan independence from Portugal it collapsed," N'Kozi said. When it was reorganized in 1977, each church was encouraged to give 20 percent of undesignated income to the national convention.

"And most churches do," N'Kozi reported. "It's hard, but our people and our pastors see the importance of it. Plus, most of the churches give another 10 percent to their local Baptist association. That means the convention is very much self-reliant and people are excited to give. Think what will happen after the war, when the economy lets our members have more money!"

Currently the convention supports 10 home missionaries and underwrites a church loan program, according to N'Kozi.

But a bright future does not mean an easy future. A peace treaty will stop destruction, but it will not rebuild automatically the destroyed national infrastructure, heal the maimed or stabilize the currency. Neither will it mean a vacation for Baptists.

"There are so many needs and we have so few things in place to meet those needs," N'Kozi admitted. "Before independence we were developing a seminary, a communications center, a media program, and an agricultural project. All of that was done away with by the war. But we need a seminary to train pastors, a media program to produce literature within an Angolan context. We need an orphanage and medical program to minister to war victims. We'll have to pray much and work hard to take advantage of the opportunities God has for us."

"Materially, we're much behind, but spiritually we're far, far ahead. The Bible says if we put the spiritual first all the other things will come. After 15 years we're financially poor — but our God is still going to look upon us and bless us."

Africa correspondent Craig Bird wrote this story after a trip to Angola, a nation struggling to emerge from a 15-year civil war.

The man who hates to be asked, "Who's calling?" when he places a telephone call, also despises having his calls answered with a phone number. Everything fell into place one morning.

"211-8412," answered the secretary who was guarding her day's supply of good morning greetings.

"May I speak to Mr. Smith?" asked the man, slightly annoyed.

"May I tell him who's calling?" asked the secretary.

"219-3587" was the remarkably controlled reply.

## Korean students picket convention

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — Students of the independent Capital Seminary surrounded the building where messengers to the Korea Baptist Convention were meeting and refused to let them out for 12 hours.

The students picketed the entire convention meeting, demanding that the convention assume some responsibility for the seminary. On Oct. 1, when the convention was to complete its business at noon, students kept

messengers hemmed in until midnight, when the convention chairman and executive secretary promised to negotiate the matter.

Capital Seminary, which has always been outside of the convention, was started by Billy Kim, a well-known Korean Baptist evangelist. As graduates have taken positions in Baptist convention churches, the seminary's influence within the convention has grown.

## Christians, India report violence

By Michael Chute

BHUBANESWAR, India (BP) — Christians in eastern India have reported violent attacks on church workers and buildings in a fresh round of religious persecution by radical Hindus.

However, Christian leaders said rumors that an evangelist was beheaded are unfounded.

Many of the 280 Baptist churches in the Khond Hills near Bhubaneswar, in the state of Orissa, have come under increasingly violent attacks in recent months from the radical Hindu group called Rastriya Sevak Sangha (RSS).

RSS instigators have beaten church workers and burned churches, many of them Baptist. Also, local Hindu authorities have imprisoned some Baptists for their Christian beliefs.

Southern Baptist funds recently replaced roofs of a number of Baptist churches burned in the attacks. Southern Baptists also provide matching grants to help fund church planters working in the Khond Hills.

"We are now looking at putting in windows and doors" of the churches, said Satyananda Patra, vice president of the Baptist Union of India.

The RSS religious/political organization vows to oust all Christians and Muslims from India. It in-

sists the country belongs only to Hindus, although about 100 million Muslims and 26 million Christians live throughout India.

Recently two church leaders, Srikanth Digal and Simon Nayak, were attacked while doing evangelistic work in a Khond Hills village.

"One was shot and the other was hacked but they were not killed," said Daniel James, secretary of the Orissa Baptist Evangelistic Crusade, which works with churches in the Khond Hills.

Earlier, a mob of fanatical Hindus assaulted two Baptist leaders, Sushanta Naik and Paul Pradhan. Naik is an evangelist working in the region and Pradhan is secretary of the Khond Hills Baptist Church Union.

"They went to see about a church that was destroyed," said Patra. "When they were returning through another village a large group of Hindus surrounded their motorcycle and attacked them. They wanted to kill them but they somehow escaped. God spared these lives."

The motorcycle, also donated by Southern Baptists, was badly damaged.

Hindu persecution of Christians in Orissa state began in 1970 when RSS

radicals burned Barhampur Baptist Church. After protests from Christians around the world, the Indian government rebuilt it. But violence began again two years ago when Hindus burned 15 Protestant and Catholic churches in Orissa.

The latest violence began after RSS leader Laxman Saraswati exhorted followers to put Hindu gods on carts and push them through village streets.

Eyewitnesses said Christians were dragged from their homes and told to bow down and worship the idols. When they refused; the Hindus beat them, then destroyed their houses and churches.

Saraswati reportedly said that in two years his group would drive all Christians out of the Khond Hills. However, Baptist work continues to grow in the area; 500 new believers are baptized every year.

"Our people have taken that challenge," said James. "They (Christians) say that by the year 2000 we'll win all of the Khond Hills to the Lord."

Baptist leaders said Hindus in northeast India fear Orissa will become like Nagaland, an Indian state that registers a 95 percent Christian population.

Chute writes for the FMB.





On hand for groundbreaking ceremony for the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library at Southwestern Seminary were (from left) James McKinney, dean of the school of church music; Russell Dilday, seminary president; Kathryn Bowld, for whom the library has been named; and Jimmy Draper, chairman of the board of trustees for Southwestern. (Photo by Jeff Floyd)

## Southwestern Seminary officials break ground for music library

FORT WORTH, Texas — Officials at Southwestern Seminary, with help from philanthropist Kathryn Sullivan Bowld, recently broke ground for a new \$2.5 million music library to be built at the school.

The Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library is being named for Bowld, a music graduate from Southwestern. She first came to Southwestern in 1930 to study music and wanted to be an "evangelistic pianist."

Wearing a hardhat, Bowld took the ceremonial first shovel of dirt to break ground on the new site. She was joined by Southwestern President Russell

Dilday; James McKinney, dean of the school of church music; and James Draper, chairman of the seminary's board of trustees.

A native of Tennessee, Bowld received a degree in organ in 1933 and returned to Southwestern nearly 50 years later to work on a master of music in choral conducting degree. She was 78 when she received the degree.

Construction of the library is Phase I of a three-part construction and renovation plan for the school of church music, which is housed in the George E. Cowden Hall.

# Baptist killed, seminary damaged in Beirut fighting

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — A Lebanese Baptist man was killed and the Baptist seminary endured heavy shelling when Syrian troops took over eastern Beirut in mid-October.

Farid Bassous, a Lebanese Baptist lay leader, was killed when an artillery shell struck his house in the Mansourieh area east of Beirut. Bassous had taken shelter in the basement with his family, but went upstairs during a lull in a bombing attack to change clothes. While he was on the upper floor, the shell struck the house and exploded. A piece of shrapnel hit Bassous.

Family members braved the continuing rain of shells in an effort to get Bassous to a hospital, but they were unable to do so because roads in the area were blocked by the battle.

Bassous was a member of the Mansourieh Baptist Church and represented Lebanese Baptists on the board that operates international Baptist institutions for the Middle East and North Africa. He is survived by his wife, Janet, a graduate of Beirut Baptist School, and two teenage daughters.

Reports from Baptists in Lebanon have been slow in getting out because international telephone lines in the country are down. Southern Baptist representatives in Cyprus who monitor Baptist ministry in Lebanon have had to rely on heavily used radio telephones in recent weeks, reported Southern Baptist representative Jim Ragland.

Ragland described Bassous as a close friend to Southern Baptists who continue to relate to work in Lebanon. "He was a good man, a quiet man, a good Baptist. He'll be missed," said Ragland.

The shell that killed Bassous was part of the heavy shelling in the area

around the Baptist seminary preceding the arrival of Syrian troops to depose Christian General Michel Aoun, who had controlled that part of east Beirut. Many of the gun emplacements the Syrians tried to knock out were located near the Baptist seminary complex.

Twelve shells struck the Baptist complex during the barrage, including one that made a direct hit on the International Ministries Building and damaged an area used by Baptist Publications. Baptist Publications employee Atiyeh Haddad had left a room in the building just before the shell struck it.

The force of the blast broke doors and blew out windows throughout the two-story office building, which also houses book storage and mass communication areas, radio and television studios and a bomb shelter for the seminary campus.

Nobody on the complex was killed or injured during the attack. Although 10 families were staying in the bomb shelter on campus, few students were there at the time. The start of seminary classes had been delayed because of a gasoline shortage.

Other shells hit near the seminary's administration building, damaging the kitchen and dining room. All the buildings sustained shrapnel damage. One shell landed about a few feet from the home of Adel Issa, a Baptist seminary employee, and blew glass fragments on Michline, his teen-age daughter, but she was unhurt. The family was huddled in the furnace room of the basement at the time.

Despite extensive damage to windows, doors and other light sections of the buildings, Ragland said walls and ceilings remain intact, so repairs probably will not be extensive.

Creswell writes for FMB.

## PRE-CONVENTION

From page 3



Wolfe

Polish Your Halo"; Wilda Fancher, wife of the consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism Department, "What's a Crisis Like This Doing in a Nice Home Like Ours?"; Lynda Street, wife of the

take place at 1 p.m. Monday. The meeting will offer four simultaneous sessions with participants able to choose any two.

Speakers and session titles include Betty Davis, wife of the pastor of Glade Church,

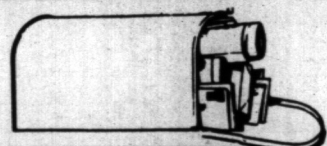
Laurel, "How to Staff Your Halo"; Wilda Fancher, wife of the consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism Department, "What's a Crisis Like This Doing in a Nice Home Like Ours?"; Lynda Street, wife of the

pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, "Kudos for the Stage Hands"; and Ron Mumbower, minister of counseling at First Church, Jackson, "Parenting in the Minister's Home."

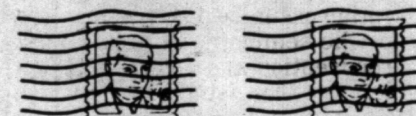
And a Lay Missions Conference begins at 3 p.m. and concludes with a banquet at 5. The conference is preceded at 1:30 p.m. by a series of special interest sessions for laypersons involved in agricultural missions, church renewal, construction, educational missions, and ham radio operators.

Speaker for the 3 p.m. plenary session will be Leonard Sanderson, a staffer with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He will speak on "Marketplace Ministries," which the theme of the program.

The banquet, which requires tickets, will feature Mississippi's own Jerry Clower.



## Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

### Confused by claims

Editor:

I am confused by those who speak of inerrancy in the Bible and a literal interpretation of the Bible. In spiritual matters and as the Book to lead people to God, it is without error, infallible, and literally true. But as Herschel Hobbs states in *The Baptist Faith and Message*, "through the years, copyists' errors were made" and that "none of these errors affect to any degree the spiritual contents of the Scriptures."

Hobbs states that "The Bible lays no claim to being a textbook of history, literature, philosophy, or science." It speaks of "moral and spiritual duty and destiny."

We must include only spiritual matters when we talk of inerrancy. There are too many errors and contradictions to say that the Bible is without error in all aspects. Different versions have different degrees of error and contradiction. For example, there are several references to the "four corners of the earth." (Isa. 11:12, Rev. 7:1, 20:8) The earth, of course, is a sphere;

it has no corners. Genesis 1 states that man was created last; but Genesis 2 states that man was created first, before any plants and animals. "No one has ever seen God" (Jn. 1:18, 1 Tim. 6:16), but Moses and 70 others saw God (Ex. 24:9f). Acts 9:7 says that men at Saul's conversion heard the voice that spoke to him, but Paul said that no one heard the voice (Acts 22:9); 2 Sam. 24:1 states that David was tempted by God, but in 1 Chron. 21:1 he was tempted by Satan. There are numerous references to evil spirits from God (1 Sam. 16:14-19:9, 1 Kings 22:22, 2 Chron. 18:21).

Many such problems have logical, theologically sound explanations if one does hold to the belief that the Bible is literally true in all respects. Those who proclaim the inerrancy, infallibility, and literal truth of the Bible, without the qualification "in spiritual matters," are doing an injustice to those who are honestly seeking the Truth. They also do a disservice to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Richard S. Myers  
Cleveland

### Address wrong

Editor:

The address you have in the Baptist Record for Paula Smith is incorrect. Her address is Mision Bautista de Uruguay, Agraciada 3452, Montevideo, Uruguay.  
Pauline Smith  
(Paula's mother)  
North Carrollton

Thank you. The address we had came from the Foreign Mission Board, but we are glad to get this correction. — Editor

### Need for pews

Editor:

The Union Grove Baptist Church in Cleveland, Miss., burned about a month ago. The church is a National Baptist Church. They will be relocating and are making plans to erect a 30 by 50 metal building. They need 20 10-foot pews. They have insurance money to cover the purchase of the building. They also have some money toward the purchase of the needed pews. However if someone would like to donate the pews they will be very much appreciated. They have asked the Bolivar Baptist Association Missions Development Council to help them locate this item. This association will also attempt to help

by enlisting volunteer labor for the completion of the interior of the building.

This is a very small black congregation that is struggling to continue as a church. Any consideration of this request will be appreciated.

All responses should be made to Rev. Anthony Pitts, 1512 Lauderdale, Shelby, MS 38774, telephone 398-7890.

Odis Henderson  
Director of missions  
Bolivar Association

### Thanks to Clark Hensley

Editor:

Please allow me to say "Thanks" to Mississippi Baptists for the privilege of knowing Dr. J. Clark Hensley and his dear wife, Margaret. Without a doubt, he is one of the most compassionate persons in the whole world.

The work of Dr. Hensley rings distinct chords in the lives of those with whom he works, for he has come to many of us in the hour of our deepest needs and hurts. He has not only been there, he has been so capable of helping us pick up shattered pieces of our lives and to put them together again to move on in a more positive and meaningful way. This I know for sure from personal experience.

And I thank Dr. Hensley for his contribution to so many of us. We shall miss him for he cannot be replaced.

However, I do pray God's blessings on him in a special way in his "slowing down" years. It is a comfort to know he will still be available for "consultation."

Helen H. Johnson  
Lyon

### English teacher needed

Editor:

The Foreign Mission Board has an urgent need for an English As Second Language (ESL) teacher at a major university in Eastern Turkey. It could be a couple or a single male, undergraduate degree (English preferred), with some experience in teaching and/or ESL certification. The university has requested applicants under 69 years only. This would be teaching English to university students and joining one teacher already on staff who wants to remain for another year. If we are unable to find a replacement for a returning teacher, the remaining one may have to return early. We need serious applicants only. Application deadline is November 15th. Teaching term begins January 1991.

Applicants should contact Mike Barnett, (804) 353-0151 ext. 472.

Mike Barnett  
Transnational advisor  
International Service  
Department  
Foreign Mission Board



# Mississippian shares vision for Ivory Coast

By Shannon T. Simpson

Ivory Coast pastor Dion Robert began his ministry in 1975 with a congregation of four members. Two of those members were his children; the other two were himself and his wife.

Those four people who comprised the "storefront" mission church in the Yopougon area of downtown Abidjan are now part of a congregation numbering 20,000, the Eglise Protestante Baptiste Oeuvres et Mission (Baptist Protestant Church, Works and Mission).

Abidjan is the capital of the Ivory Coast, a small nation on the western edge of Africa. The country's population of four million is French-speaking, nominally Catholic (both as a result of France's colonization of the area in the 17th century), and chiefly poor.

Dion Robert knows about the Ivory Coast; he grew up there. He also knows about the common practices of cannibalism and witchcraft; his father was the equivalent of the village witch doctor, and he was to inherit the title.

As a result of SBC work in West Africa, and under the guidance of Senegal missionary Ferrell Runyan, Robert was converted to Christianity in 1969. Robert felt moved to go back to Abidjan, and it was there that the Eglise Protestante Baptiste and its vision to win the Ivory Coast to Jesus came into being.

From its original four, the tiny church grew to 25 members who began to search the Word for all the truth it had to offer. At an all-night prayer meeting, the congregation

seemed to be filled with the Spirit, and received a vision for winning the Ivory Coast.

By 1981, the church had grown to 250 members. In 1985, the membership grew to 650, and achieved autonomy. Membership now totals 20,000 throughout the country.

The Eglise Protestante Baptiste has 57 churches in the interior, many with several Sunday services. It has started a mission in Paris, sent missionaries into Guinea, and started two churches in neighboring Burkina Faso. The mother church in Abidjan has an attendance of about 4,000 on Sunday.

Missionary Charles Deevers of Clinton attributes the church's growth there to the fact that, "If you take away utilities and rent, 90 percent of tithes and offerings are turned right around and put back into their evangelization efforts."

"This pastor of 20,000 has an office about half the size of this room with three desks in it. By day, it serves as the office for the church. When night comes, the pastor moves the desks out of the way and sleeps there on the floor. He doesn't have a car; he has refused an apartment. His wife and 11 children live just across the old sanctuary in another room," says Deevers. "They have totally dedicated themselves to winning people for Christ."

Deevers originally went to West Africa as a volunteer missionary, but returned in 1976 after he and his wife, Dianne, made a life-changing decision

- to give up a successful dental practice, home, and lifestyle to do full-time mission work in the Ivory Coast.

"I realized that one Christian dentist could make a world of difference in Ivory Coast," says Deevers. "What difference would it make if there were one less dentist in Jackson? But, out of the 8,000 people we treated the first year there, we started three churches."

Deevers and Robert were interviewed recently at the Baptist Record offices. They met in 1976, but this past year, felt the Lord had called Deevers and his wife from their previous dental ministry to work exclusively with the Eglise Protestante Baptiste.

The Deeverses now participate in the church's prison and hospital ministries, two of many works the church conducts with the aid of Robert's "supernatural" gift for organization.

"When you walk into his office," explains Deevers, "you see the whole church organization mapped out on his wall - the 23 departments (social work, hospital, prison, home cell groups, women's work, student departments), the 1,500 house churches, the 57 churches in the interior. Dion is, of course, the principal pastor, but all the others (198 full-time workers) have their positions, authority, responsibility."

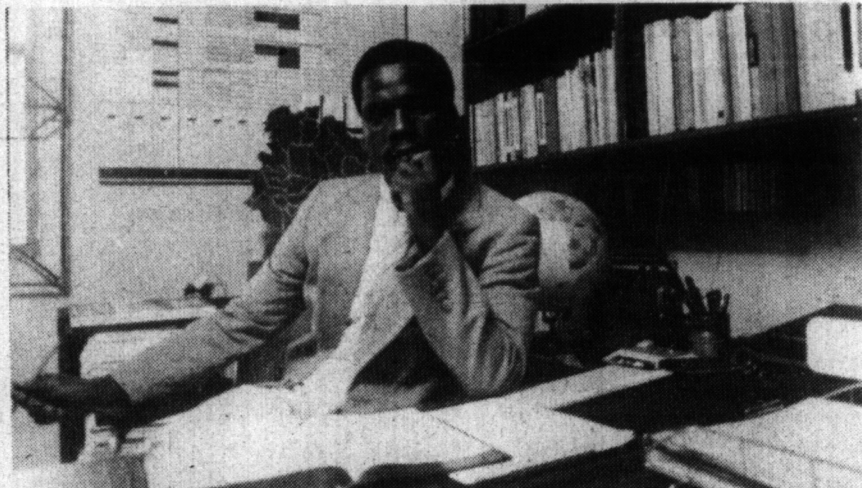
Robert believes that another of the key strategies used by the church to achieve growth and realize its vision is that of the home cell group, or house church. With 1,500 of these groups throughout the country, the church is able to maintain a structure in which to teach and train its members.

Each house church has about 15 members. Most are comprised of homogenous social groups, such as women, or people who speak the same dialect. The same weekly lesson is taught to each group, so everyone learns simultaneously.

"The home cell group is a fascinating concept," says Deevers. "It's a return to the first century practice of winning people through relationships. Some groups are uniquely women, uniquely doctors, or tailors, or firemen. Ex-drug addicts go back out and win drug addicts. Former prostitutes win prostitutes. Like winning like."

"The goal of the house church is fellowship and ministering to each other, but above all, evangelization."

The strategy for growth is effective, as proven by the Eglise Protestant Baptiste. The church's vision for winning the Ivory Coast to Jesus is quickly becoming a reality, in spite of tremendous cultural obstacles, such as animism and sorcery.



Ivory Coast pastor Dion Robert's 8' x 8' office in Abidjan contains three desks. The desks are in constant use by day. At night, the chairs are moved aside so the pastor can make his bed on the floor. (EBP Photo)

Robert sees those obstacles as blessings, however mixed. "We utilize these things to evangelize people," he says. "We go to deliver care to them in the villages, then preach while we cure their physical illnesses. We cast out demons with the power of God, just like Philip did in Samaria in Acts 8. The ones who are truly religious, even about sorcery, are the ones who will demand the right to speak directly to God; because they are already looking in their hearts for something to speak to."

Demons, sorcery, witchcraft are all part of life in Ivory Coast. While Deevers has had to learn to deal with the supernatural element of ministering to Ivoireans, he also sees their ready acceptance of supernatural activity as an advantage.

"These people are in bondage to their ancestors, or demons they believe to be their ancestors," explains Robert. "Demons exist. It may not be very 'Baptist' as you know it here, but we have to cast out these demons on the spot in order to evangelize. It is truly a demonstration of the Spirit of God."

Relating stories of children he saw delivered from demonic oppression, Deevers said he was moved by the ability and power of the Holy Spirit in such cases.

Deevers explains that bondage often results from blood covenants made with ancestors when children are very young. Many times it is the choice of parents to enter their children into these covenants because they feel they have no other way to ensure a child's survival. Half of Ivoirean children die before reaching age 6.

"It is simple to learn how to pray with these people," continues Robert. "They can understand the grace in-

involved in salvation because they have already appealed to the grace of their ancestors to make their lives liveable. They can also believe when we tell them they don't have to make blood sacrifices any more, because God sacrificed his Son for them."

Robert's focus in evangelism is simply to preach. He is convinced the Holy Spirit moves in to work miracles when the church presents the Truth. The Eglise Protestante Baptiste uses the tools of dentistry, medicine, prison visitation, or education (it started a Bible and missionary training school which graduated 87 last year); but the Holy Spirit convicts and wins souls.

"We gained this brother in Christ with this outstanding gift for organization and leadership," says Deevers of Robert, "and he is winning his own people... taking the Word of God, and applying it to his culture, with tremendous results."

It is Deevers' opinion that the recent explosion of Christianity on the African continent is a result of the wide occurrence of AIDS there.

"People say right now, 60-80 percent of the whole population of Africa is infected with the AIDS virus. That means 60-80 percent of all Africans will be dead in 10 years," he says. "Maybe God, in His grace is saying, 'I want to save them before they die.'"

When asked to share his vision in words, Robert responded: "Like a child grows up, as he makes his way in society, as he learns, we plan to grow our church. To share our strategies for growth, Jesus' plan for salvation, to use medicine and dentistry to reach people, to plant house churches, to train people in all aspects of ministry, so that they can go out and win souls. That's our vision."

Simpson is a staff writer, BAPTIST RECORD.



Clinton native Charles Deevers treats a patient in an African village. His assistant, Kakou N'Goran, right, was killed in a bicycle accident not long after this photo was taken. (FMB Photo)

## Baptist worker daily says hello to husband still in Kuwait

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — It only lasts 30 seconds, but Laurie Graham is saying a daily hello to her husband, Maurice, in Iraqi-devastated Kuwait.

The Grahams, of Shelbyville, Tenn., and Hutchinson, Kan., were Southern Baptists' first workers in Kuwait. They had been in the country less than three months when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait early Aug. 2.

Graham and an undisclosed number of Americans remain in Kuwait at the U.S. Embassy compound. Mrs. Graham and her two sons, Peter, 13, and Aaron, 10, left Kuwait Sept. 12 as part of an exodus Iraq permitted for American women and children. Only a handful of American men were allowed to leave.

Mrs. Graham and her sons, now in a church's missionary residence in Nashville, have been sending daily greetings to Graham via a Voice of America shortwave broadcast set up for families of U.S. hostages in Kuwait and Iraq.

The Voice of America broadcast, called "Messages from Home," began Oct. 4, said a VOA spokesman in Washington, D.C. It is aired around 7:45 p.m. each day Mideast time, or 12:45 p.m. Washington time.

Relatives of hostages in Kuwait and Iraq may call a special number at the State Department from 1 to 6 p.m. each day to record a 30-second message. The volume of calls determines the length of each day's program, but it usually runs 10 to 15

minutes, the spokesman said.

The U.S. State Department also calls Mrs. Graham daily to report that her husband remains safe in the Kuwait embassy compound.

"Periodically, they pass short messages to Maurice and back to me," she said. "Maurice says they have little to do and are very anxious to leave."

The Grahams have been "encouraged by the constant prayer support" of family, friends, and Southern Baptists who have written to them, she added.

"Please continue to pray for Maurice to stay in good spirits and to be able to maintain his weight," Mrs. Graham said. "He has food, but tuna, rice, and lukewarm water get monotonous."

"Above all, pray for a peaceful solution" to the Gulf crisis, Mrs. Graham said.

She said her sons have done well in adjusting from life in Iraqi-controlled Kuwait to the relative calm of Nashville. A key factor is that "we know what life is like at the embassy," she explained. Her husband is not "holed up" in a room but can exercise by walking around the large embassy grounds and chat with other Americans who have taken refuge there.

Ever since the first hours after the invasion, Mrs. Graham said she has learned much about being sensitive to other people in crisis.

"That's one of the reasons I married Maurice. I've always had an admiration for people who can be sensitive to people in crisis," she said.

Between 600 and 700 Americans, mostly men, remain in Kuwait, including the undisclosed number in the U.S. Embassy; another 350 Americans are in Iraq, according to a State Department spokesman.

The U.S. Embassy is one of the few that remain open in Kuwait. "It's still functioning as an embassy," the spokesman said. "We're planning to stay open as long as our supplies hold out — and they'll hold out for some time."

Toalston writes for the FMB.





# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, November 8, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## President Eddie Hamilton

For the president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Eddie Hamilton, this has been a busy year, with meetings about convention business and meetings at Oak Forest, the south Jackson church where he is pastor, and, I expect, other meetings besides. His habit of going to bed late and rising early has helped him get his jobs done. His popularity with his colleagues, presidents of other state Baptist conventions, has been proven. A short time ago, they elected him president of their nationwide organization.

For fun, he plays golf with his 9-year-old son, a fourth-grader at Marshall Elementary School. About the son's game, the dad says, "He's good," and adds, "He's an all-star baseball player, too." Hamilton reads a lot, too. Last week he was reading Stephen Brown's book, *When Being Good Isn't Enough*.

Since Hamilton moved to Oak Forest Church in 1986, his daughter, Stephanie, has married a dentist, Dr. Cole Fortenberry, who is now in the process of opening an office in Madison. Stephanie, a senior majoring in accounting at Mississippi College, is a Presidential Scholar with a 4.0 average.

At Oak Forest, Hamilton's wife, Dorothy, teaches a young couples' Sunday School class and coordinates the church's Bible Drills — with one of the largest number of participants in the state. At Forest Hill High, she is a vocational counselor. She and Eddie have known each other a long time. In fact, Eddie Hamilton and Dot Pennington enrolled in first grade together in Tishomingo, where Eddie and his two sisters were born. Before they graduated from Tishomingo High School in the same class — she as valedictorian and he as salutatorian — the two had begun dating. Sometimes they talked about



Hamilton

the possibility that one day he would be a preacher.

His grandfather, W. C. Hamilton, had been a Baptist preacher — once of eight Tishomingo County churches at the same time, and served them as a circuit rider. His other grandfather, B. M. Green, was a Baptist deacon at Paden Church. (His father, W. L. Hamilton, and mother, Imogene Green Hamilton, are members of Tishomingo Baptist Church.)

But it was not because his grandfather had been a preacher that he became one, he said. "It was because God called me." At age 16, he surrendered his life to Christ, and was baptized. Then soon after graduation from high school, he surrendered to God's call to the ministry. Tishomingo Church licensed, and later ordained, him.

After study at Clarke College, he transferred to the University of North Alabama at Florence, where he earned a B.S. degree, with a major in English. At New Orleans Seminary, he received master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees.

For four years he taught school and coached football in the Tishomingo School System while at the same time serving his earlier pastorates.

Before Oak Forest, his pastorates had included six other churches: Mt. Vernon, Iuka; New Liberty, Burnsville; Burton Church, Burton; New Hope, Meadville; First, Sumrall, and First, Carthage.

Before election as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, he had been a vice-president of that convention. Also he had been president of the Convention Board and chairman of the Board's Executive Committee and the Board's Budget Committee.

His favorite season, fall, and his favorite sermon text, have one thing in common — harvest time. His favorite text is Matt. 9:38 — "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

The President's Message at the Mississippi Baptist Convention next week is scheduled for Tuesday morning at 10:55.

As for the convention, he predicts a positive one.

"The convention will provide a forum for those who have ideas to express them," he said. "I feel that we will leave in a spirit of love and unity."

His greatest dream for the Mississippi Baptist Convention is "that we be accepting of one another in a spirit of love. The theme this year is 'That they all may be one . . . That's the goal — unity in Christ.'"



Ed Brashier admires his license plate.

## Louisville's Brashier promotes new hymnal fund

By Tim Nicholas

Ed Brashier has his place already marked in the new Baptist Hymnal being introduced next March. That place is marked on the back of his car.

The minister of music at First Church, Louisville, Brashier was casting about for ways to promote a fund in the church for purchase of the hymnals when he thought of the personalized automobile tag.

Church member Juanita Hight contacted the right people at the Sunday School Board to find out which number a certain hymn would be. She came back with the number — it would be four, she reported.

Brashier made his request at the courthouse for the \$40 per year personalized tag. Only one other tag in Mississippi had a hymn number.

Brashier does not know who in the state has that number, but it must be a Baptist, since the other tag is Hymn 33, the same hymn in the current hymnal as number four in the new one.

When Brashier stops for gas, people will ask if he's a minister or ask the name of the hymn he is touting. For him it is a chance to witness.

"It also makes a statement," says Brashier. "In due time, lots of Baptists will recognize actually what Hymn 4 is saying."

His other purpose in purchasing the tag — promoting the hymnal fund — appears to be working at First Church. Cost for 500 hymnals including instrumental and handbell editions, will be about \$5,000. He thinks the church will raise the whole amount needed.

Recently, Brashier did a survey in his church for the top 10 favorite hymns among members. The top favorite was "How Great Thou Art." "To God Be the Glory," Hymn 4 in the new hymnal, was a bit farther down the list, but to Ed Brashier, it's tops.

Nicholas is director of communication, MBCB.

## Churches start in ministry centers

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — As existing churches flee America's inner cities, Christian social workers are leading an effort to plant new congregations by combining the tasks of church starting and ministry.

At least 32 inner city congregations have been started in the past two years through an emphasis of the Home Mission Board called "Starting Churches through Ministry Centers." The project is the brainchild of

Harold Wilcox, the HMB's director of church and community ministries.

"We Southern Baptists say every person should have the opportunity to hear the gospel and have a congregation of believers to associate with," Wilcox explains. "If we really mean that, we're going to have to get into the inner cities, where our churches have moved out."

"Baptist Centers remain in the inner cities, where they have been for years. We are uniquely qualified to start churches there through ministry."

The HMB, in cooperation with state conventions and associations, has established 77 Baptist Centers across the nation. The centers typically offer food, clothing, and other ministry programs for the poor and homeless.

Two years ago, about one-third of the Baptist Centers offered some form of weekly worship, Wilcox says. Now, about three-fourths of all Baptist Centers have organized congregations.

Churches in ministry centers are more meaningful to the down-and-out, Wilcox explains. "We've said these people are welcome in our churches, and they would be. But they need a place where they will be comfortable. Why not let them have a church in their own community?"

Wingfield writes for HMB.



MINISTRY CENTER CHURCH — Parishioners sing hymns during worship at Johnenning Baptist Center in Washington, D.C. The Johnenning Center is one of a growing number of Southern Baptist ministry centers also doubling as churches. Here the center's gymnasium becomes a sanctuary for Sunday worship. (BP photo)

## Devotional

## Family

By Horace Kerr

What does the word "family" mean to you? Characteristics of meaningful families are clearly set forth in Scripture.

The good mother and wife of Proverbs 31 is described as providing food and clothing for her family. In the covenant Jonathan sought with David (Joshua 2:12, 13), his primary concern was protection for his family.

Many of the most important lessons we learn in life are from our families. The Bible exhorts the family to teach in Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 and Proverbs 22:6.

The committed family serves God. Joshua's challenge to the Israelites in his final speech is as current at today's TV commentary. David's scheme to determine his status with King Saul was based on the practice of families' meeting annually, a kind of family reunion such as many experience at Christmastime, with a religious purpose.

In Leviticus 25:47, 48 there is a provision for the family to redeem one of its members who may have fallen on hard times and sold himself into slavery. Meaningful families of today are redemptive, receiving and helping one who has suffered misfortune or wrongdoing.

A final characteristic of the kind of family being described here is that of hospitality. Following her experience of faith and baptism Lydia invited the evangelists to her home (Acts 16:15). Jesus' friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus had him as their guests on more than one occasion. Family members are often enriched by those who are their invited guests. Others' lives are blessed by a family which opens its home to them in time of need or for social activity. Now, can you thank God for your family? Are there actions you can take now to make your family more providing, protecting, redeeming, teaching, worshipping, and hospitable?

Kerr lives in Jackson. Before retirement, he was supervisor, senior adults/singles, Family Ministry Department, BSSB, Nashville.



## MC and Jitney to team up to support scholarship fund

Mississippi College and Jitney-Jungle, will team up again this year in support of a special scholarship fund at the college.

Jitney-Jungle, with two stores in Clinton, has agreed to donate to the college 10 percent of all its sales on Saturday, Nov. 10, to the scholarship fund. A Superstore is located at 200 Clinton Blvd. in Clinton Plaza Shopping Center, while a smaller store is located at 822 Northside Drive in Northside Square Shopping Center.

Jitney-Jungle initiated this program several years ago in connection with one of the college's home football games. "MC and Jitney-Jungle — A Winning Team" has been the theme of the program and will be carried out again this year. T-shirts carrying out the theme, and supplied by the college, will be worn by Jitney employees

on Nov. 10.

Members of the defending national championship football team will be on hand to assist in bagging and carrying-out, while other college groups will assist in other projects at both stores.

There will be entertainment on the parking lot of the Clinton Plaza Store and WHJT-FM (93.5) will broadcast live from the Superstore during the morning.

The activities for the day will be a prelude in the Mississippi College vs. Delta State University football game scheduled at Robinson-Hale Stadium at 5 p.m. The nationally ranked Chocs can win outright the Gulf South Conference championship with a victory. A win would also assure them of a place in the NCAA Division II playoffs, possibly as a host institution.

## Clarke Association gives \$7,472.08 to state missions

A total Margaret Lackey gift for state missions from Clarke Association of \$7,472.08 was reported by Grady Crowell, director of missions for the association. Crowell noted that all 29 churches of the association had reported. The goal for the association was \$5,000.



Dennis Lee and Danny

## Ventriloquist to do concert at East Central

Dennis Lee, ventriloquist from Dallas, will present a concert on Nov. 15, at the Huff Auditorium, East Central Community College, at 7 p.m. This program is designed by an evening of Christian "Laughter and Love" with the whole family in mind, according to Tim Glaze, Baptist student director, ECCC.

Lee is currently performing anti-drug programs in conjunction with Express Industries in the Texas school systems. He has performed in churches and schools throughout the Southwest, Hawaii, and Brazil. He was a guest performer at the Mississippi Baptist Youth Night in 1989.

Tickets are \$3.00 in advance and \$4.00 at the door. The concert is free to any college student with current ID. Tickets can be reserved by calling either the Baptist Student Union at East Central Community College (635-2481) or Clarke College (683-2061).

Lee will perform Nov. 13 for the students at the college, during "Priority" at 7 p.m. and on Nov. 14 at 11:40 a.m. for "Lunch-Encounter."

## ONE From page 3

vention will be Eva Hart, pianist, and Dot Pray, organist, both of Jackson.

Music for the convention will be provided by the Oak Forest Church, Jackson, choir; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; the First Church, Quitman, choir; the Mississippi College Concert Chorale; and the Temple Church, Hattiesburg, choir and orchestra.

## Man wants Bible more than house

CAGAYAN VALLEY, Philippines — After a typhoon hit the Philippine island of Luzon, Southern Baptist missionary Dan Wood and Philippine lay pastor Tony Alindaya surveyed a hard-hit area in the Cagayan Valley. They met a man who attended one of their Bible studies. The storm had blown his house across the road. As they talked, he commented, "Do you know what I need most?" He walked over to his destroyed house, reached down to pick up a soggy mess and said, "I need a new Bible!" Wood delivered one to him the next Sunday.

## Names in the news

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, ordained Charles Long as deacon during its evening worship services on Sept. 9. Howard Smith, director of missions for Yazoo and Warren Counties, presented the charges to the candidate and to the church. Long, who is employed by the Mississippi State Highway Department, is married to the former Sally Powell. They are the parents of two children, a son, Darrel, a student at Mississippi State University and a daughter, Jan, a student at Wood College.

Serving with Long as active deacons for the 1990-91 year are George Kirk, chairman, Paul McGinty, Sonny Walker, Sonny Kirk, Earnest Jackson, Marvin Ray Melton, and Levern Collins. Bryan Abel is pastor and Stephen Bath is minister of music and youth.

Dave Carter, a member of Pioneer Church, Woodville, has completed 43 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. O. B. Beverly is pastor.



Carter

## Blue Mountain receives funds

In 1980, the ministerial alumni of Blue Mountain College established a trust fund in honor of James L. Travis, chairman of the Division of Biblical Studies. The funds are invested with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and the interest generated by the trust fund is awarded as scholarships to students in the church-related vocations field.

A generous gift from the estate of Mrs. Hermie Porter Howatt, 1931 Blue Mountain College graduate, has pushed the trust fund to its present level of \$105,000. This past year, 11 ministerial students were awarded scholarships from this trust fund.

## Homecomings

Macedonia Church, Meridian: Nov. 11; 11 a.m.; Danny Moss, pastor, speaker; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; no night services; "The Sunshiners" from Philadelphia, guest singers.

First Church, Sand Hill, (Greene): Nov. 11; Bennie Crockett, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds following morning service.

Byram Church, Jackson: Nov. 11; James D. Whittington, pastor, morning message; Marcus Marler, music director, music; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch and gospel singing after services.

Horseshoe Church, Tchula: Nov. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Robert Self, guest speaker; Rob Futral, pastor.

Ingram Church, Baldwin: homecoming and harvest day; Nov. 18; activities begin at 10 a.m.; Cary Crawford, morning message; potluck thanksgiving supper, 5:30 p.m.; Joe Herndon is pastor.

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done. — Longfellow

Mary Ann Nemcek has been appointed as Chair of the Division of Nursing at William Carey College, according to Larry Braidfoot, academic vice president at Carey.

Nemcek holds the doctorate of nursing science from LSU Medical Center School of Nursing. Prior to coming to William Carey College, she served as Well-spring Associate, Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital and on the nursing faculty, Charity Hospital School of Nursing, New Orleans.

She was named research scholar of the American Nurses Foundation, 1987, and to Who's Who in American Nursing, 1986.

## CLASSIFIED

RATE 50c per word \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

CALVARY BAPTIST, West Point, needs skilled ORGANIST, paid position. Contact Jim Young (601) 494-4421.

# Missionary news

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Powell of Las Vegas, Nev. announce the birth of a son, Seth Thomas Powell, on Oct. 17, 1990, at Humana Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas. Mrs. Powell is the former Mary Ellen Thomas of Vicksburg. They are home missionaries in Nevada, where they have organized a new church in Las Vegas and Jeff is BSU director at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Asbury and Hope Martin, missionaries to Argentina, are in the States (address: P. O. Box 933, Fulton, MS 38843). He was born in Columbia, S.C., and considers Cleveland his hometown. She is the former Hope Clements of Corinth.

John and Amy Purl, missionaries to Ghana, are in the States (address: 4613 Palm St., Baton Rouge, La. 70808). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Kosciusko, and considers McComb his hometown. The former Amy Perdew, she was born in Kansas City, Mo., lived in several states and considers McComb her hometown.

Harry and Frances Raley, missionaries to Taiwan, are in the States (address: 442 Cummins St., Jackson, MS 39204). He is a native of Kershaw County, S.C. The former Frances Bibb, she was born near Moorhead, and lived on farms near Drew.

Janet Mayhall, missionary to Colombia, is on the field (address: Apartado Aereo 50288, Barranquilla, Colombia). Daughter of missionaries to Nigeria, she was born in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, and considers Magee her hometown.

Faye Pearson, missionary to Taiwan, is on the field (address: P. O. Box 427, Taipei 10099). She is a native of Laurel.

Tom and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh, are on the field (address: Box 1, Gopalgonj, Bangladesh 8100). He is a native of Monticello, and she is the former Gloria Philpot of McWilliams, Ala.

David and Gloria Glaze, missionaries to Argentina, are in the States (address: 439 E. First St., Forest, MS 39074). He was born in Louisville, Ky., and considers Jackson his hometown. The former Gloria Marler, she was born in Tylertown and considers Jackson her hometown.

Paul and Virginia Smith, Baptist representatives to Morocco, are in the States (address: 191 Westmead, Apt. 2904 B, Houston, TX 77077). He was born in Silver Creek, and she is the former Virginia Walker of Farmington, Mo.



Bus Supply Company is your **CHAMPION DEALERSHIP** offering your area a fine selection of models from 13 to 29 passenger mini buses.

**Bus Supply Company**  
Hwy. 98 East, McComb, MS 39648  
(601) 684-2900 1-800-748-8681

## Eight Piano Arrangements

(Optional organ duets)

for you to play

in the inimitable improvisational style of

**Irene Martin**  
**A Closer Walk**

(Just a Closer Walk with Thee)

The Invitation/The Response  
Ivory Palaces  
At Calvary  
Come Thou Fount

In the Garden  
Moment by Moment  
Just a Closer Walk with Thee  
O Store Gud

Send \$6.95 (includes shipping) to  
NovaStella Music, P. O. Box 23105, Jackson, MS 39225  
for A Closer Walk

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ For demo tape, add \$5



# Mississippians start church in Florida

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS — "Every door was an adventure" for John and Ernestine Herrington, grandparents from Kenner, La., and Tylertown, Miss., who chose to spend their summer on a Praxis team from New Orleans Seminary, knocking on doors and planting a church in Garden Grove, Fla.

Praxis is a 10-week project in communities across the country perceived as targets for planting churches. A cooperative effort of the Home Mission Board, the seminaries, the state conventions, and the local associations and churches, Praxis provides students an opportunity to put into practice what they are learning in seminary.

Nearing their 60s, with leg and other health problems, the Herringtons had "a very stretching experience," said Ernestine, who found it a challenge to adjust after being "set in your ways."

At first, they had worried about their physical condition, especially with so much walking from home to home for neighborhood surveys; but even with all the stress they faced during the summer, "we had no problems," she said. "God answered our prayers."

In fact, being grandparents was an asset, continued Ernestine, who found the people in the community southeast of Winter Haven, Fla., suffered from abundant loneliness, verbal abuse, loss of loved ones, and affairs. People were more open to the Herringtons because of their age, their lifetime of experience, and the

listening ears of grandparents who care.

"We did not do what we did this summer; God did it," Ernestine said. "We were like empty vessels. God filled us up and poured (himself) out of us."

"Praxis gave John the opportunity to preach," she continued. "He had his own business for 20 years; but seven years ago, he felt God calling him to preach," and currently, he is serving a church in Reserve, La. Their Praxis experience "will be invaluable to us because the church in Reserve is small; it needs the same thing we did in Florida — building up."

"So we practiced, and practice makes perfect," she said. "Get out where the people are on the street." One day, the Herringtons' car stalled. A passerby offered to help them jump-start it, and as he helped he talked.

"I've had the worst week of my life," he said, and he continued to pour out his frustrations. The Herringtons invited him to Bible study, and he showed up; but they failed to get his address. He never came to Bible study again.

For weeks, they prayed for the man and for another opportunity to see him and share Christ with him. Finally, they thought they recognized the man's van in front of a home as they were passing by one day.

"John asked someone out front if Ed lived there," Ernestine said. The answer was positive, "and he went inside and led Ed to the Lord."

Paine is PR writer, NOBTS.

## Beelers camp along the way as they share Christ in New England, Canada

Earl and Dorothy Beeler of Route 5, Oxford, have just returned from a mission trip in which Earl did monologues of Peter and Paul, and Dorothy distributed tracts and New Testaments.

He presented the monologues in Middletown, Conn.; Springfield, Washington, and Barre, Vt.; Calais, Caribou, Brunswick, and Litchfield, Maine; Bear River, East Bear River, Clementsvalle, and Petitcodiac, Nova Scotia, Canada; Mac-taquac and Bear Island, New Brunswick, Canada.

The Beelers, who are Christian Service Corps volunteers, say this is their way of presenting Christ. The trip covered 61 days and 6,100 miles. They spent two nights in motels enroute home, nine nights camping in a mini-van, and the other nights in homes of relatives or other persons on church fields.

"The Lord was good to us, providing all our needs," they state, "keeping us healthy and giving us rich experiences of his grace and love."

Earl Beeler, a retired pastor, has also been a principal, teacher, and guidance counselor. He began doing the monologue of Peter in 1988, and has since added the monologue of Paul.



Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's auxiliary recently presented a \$20,000 check to Kent Strum, MBMC executive director, for use in furnishing the new Cardiovascular Surgery waiting area, which will be renovated soon. The auxiliary raised the money through flower sales in the hospital gift shop. Pictured from left are Dean Archer, auxiliary president, Strum, and Pat Dawson, auxiliary projects chairman.

Thursday, November 8, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

# Just for the Record



Raymond Church, Raymond, held a GA recognition service on Sept. 30. Girls recognized with badges for their completed work pictured are, first row, Emily Holston, Jennifer Carter, Jamie Langston, Lori Barr, Deanna Lowery, Laura Gordon, and Kate Hartfield; second row, Christi Barr, Anna Holston, Laura Oberhausen, Hollie Jordan, Bethany Langston, Olivia Gordon, and Leigh Grantham.

A reception, which was hosted by the Baptist Young Women and the Baptist Women, was held in fellowship hall following the service. The GA leaders are Angela Holston, Nita McKissack, Trudi Gordon, and Rubye Moss.



Ecu Church, Ecu, held a GA and RA recognition service on Oct. 7. Top picture, GAs, front row, left to right, are Amy Walls, Salena Gann, Andrea Baker, Miranda Andrews, Michelle Powell, Abigail Hamilton. Back row, Kerri Brown, Heather McGee, Kelly Swords, Stephanie Bigham, Kelly Cobb, Heather Simmons, and Darla Brown. Bottom picture, RAs, front row, left to right, are Blake Mounce, Dustin Gillespie, Brooks Hamilton. Second row, Nathan Baker, Jason Horton, Steven Hilliard. Back row, leaders, Jerry Horton, and Johnny Mounce.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, presented certificates to its officers and teachers for the 1989-90 year. The group joined together Oct. 20 for a covered dish meal in fellowship hall. Bryan Abel, pastor, expressed appreciation to the group. Stephen Bath is minister of music and youth.

Perry County Association passed two resolutions related to budget matters in its annual meeting. The first resolution favors the one-half percent increase, rather than one-fourth to SBC causes.

The second resolution concerned interest received on short-term deposits. The messengers commended the Convention Board for wise stewardship and suggested the earned interest be allocated according to the budget.

The association stated its concern was to provide more funds for Bold Mission Thrust in taking the gospel to the world.

Washington County Baptist Association, in annual meeting on Oct. 16 in Greenville, adopted a resolution opposing riverboat gambling, lotteries, and sports wagering. The association represents 20 churches with a total membership of 12,123, according to Roy D. Raddin, director of missions.

The quarterly meeting of the Mississippi Puppetry Guild will take place at the Eudora Welty Library, 300 North State Street, Jackson, on Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. Peter Zapletal, who majored in puppetry at the Academy for Performing Arts in Prague, Czechoslovakia, will share ideas on different approaches of marionette construction. For more information, contact Hilda Faye Hill at 932-2751.

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us. — Helen Keller

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES HEATERS. PUMPS. FACTORY DIRECT**

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**PEWS**

TOLL FREE (800) 366-1716

*Overholtzer*

**AUTHORS WANTED BY NEW YORK PUBLISHER**

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly, and juvenile works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free, illustrated 40-page brochure H-101 Vantage Press, 516 W. 34 St., New York, N.Y. 10001

**Steeple & Baptistries**

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeple
- Baptistries
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Krinkglas® Windows
- Baptistries Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-527-1459  
In Texas 1-800-443-8582  
PO Box 1340  
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

## Scheduled convention-related meetings

### Breakfast planned for bivocational

A fellowship breakfast for bivocational ministers and their wives is planned for Nov. 14, at 7 a.m. at Shoney's on High Street at I-55. This event is sponsored by the Cooperative Missions and Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries departments.

During this meeting, ministers will hear from bivocational leadership, elect new officers, and discuss common concerns. Hollis Bryant, bivocational consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Dale Holloway, national bivocational consultant for the Home Mission Board, will address the group.

All bivocational ministers are invited to attend. The cost of the meal is covered by the sponsoring departments. For further information, contact Hollis Bryant or Matt Buckles at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800.

### Blue Mountain alums will meet, Broadmoor

Blue Mountain College ministerial alumni will meet, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, 5:15 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13. James Travis will be the featured speaker. Tickets for the supper will be available at the Blue Mountain College table, First Church, Jackson, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

### Mississippi College plans alums breakfast

Mississippi College alumni and friends attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention are invited to a continental breakfast on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:30-9 a.m., in rooms B, C, and D of the Fellowship Hall, First Church, Jackson. There is no charge. Bernard Blackwell is director of alumni affairs.



## First, Grenada, hosts preaching conference

Preparation and delivery will be the focal points of the upcoming Mississippi Conference on Biblical Preaching.

The conference, sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Convention Board, will take place at First Church, Grenada, Dec. 3-4.

It begins with registration at 1:15 on Monday with sessions starting at 1:30. The meeting adjourns at 3:30 the next day.

Sessions will be led by Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport; Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson; Stan Fornea, pastor of First Church, Cleveland; and James Heflin, professor at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Rick Munn, minister of music at First Church, Grenada, will be music leader for the conference.

Topics to be discussed by Heflin include "What is Good Planning?" and "Improving Your Preaching." He and Munn will lead in worship on Tuesday morning at 8:30.



Fornea

Register

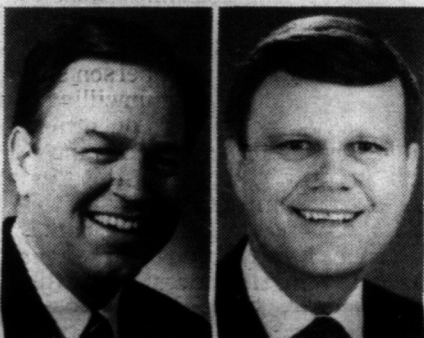
Fornea will lead sessions on "Questions to be Asked When Approaching the Biblical Text," and "A Revised Homiletic for a Southern Baptist Tradition."

Register's sessions will be "The Holy Spirit in Preaching," "Biographical Preaching: Producing the Lessons from the Lives of Biblical Characters," and "Illustrations in Preaching."

Futral will speak on "Ideas for Biblical Preaching" and "I Believe in Preaching."

Participants will also be able to participate in workgroups including the following subjects: "The Sermon: From the Idea to the Invitation," "Identifying the Southern Baptist Tradition in Preaching," "Planning Your Preaching," and "Sermons and Services for Special Occasions."

There is no cost for the conference, but sponsoring department director Julius Thompson requests advance registration by writing Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.



Heflin

Futral

## Conference centers accepting summer employee applications

NASHVILLE — Applications are being accepted at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers for the 1991 summer staffs.

Glorieta applicants must be 17 or older and be available to work from May 26 through Aug. 18, although those who can work beyond then will be given first consideration, said Glenn Compton, Glorieta personnel services administrator. Some applicants will be hired to work from June 7 through Sept. 3.

Applicants for the Ridgecrest staff must also be 17 or older and be available to work from June 2 through Labor Day, according to George Boswell, Ridgecrest personnel services administrator. Some staff personnel will be chosen to work for a shorter term or selected to arrive at a later date than June 2, Boswell said.

Available positions at both conference centers include food services,

day camp, preschool, recreation, housekeeping, registration, business offices, conference support, and sound and lighting technicians.

The conference centers provide a program of activities for their staffs during off-duty hours, including Bible study, family groups, recreation, music, sports and local mission opportunities.

Information about Glorieta employment may be obtained by writing Summer Employment, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535-0008 or by calling (505) 757-6161.

Information may be obtained from Ridgecrest by writing to Summer Employment, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770 or by calling (704) 669-8022.

The conference centers are operated year round and owned by the Sunday School Board.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Nov. 12 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Baptist Building; 10 a.m.
- Nov. 12 Ministers' Wives Conference; FBC, Jackson; 1-5 p.m. (CAPM)
- Nov. 12 Lay Mission Conference; FBC, Jackson; 3-7 p.m.; (BRO/WMU/COM)
- Nov. 13-14 Mississippi Baptist Convention; FBC, Jackson
- Nov. 14 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Baptist Building; Immediately following convention
- Nov. 16-17 DiscipleYouth Workshop; FBC, McComb; 6:30 p.m., 16th-4 p.m., 17th (DT)

## Staff changes

North Greenwood Church in Greenwood (Leflore Association) has called Jim Phillips as pastor. He has served the last four years as associate pastor of Calvary Church in Tupelo. He will assume his duties on the field December 2.

First Church, Lyman, Gulf Coast Association, has called Don Snipes as pastor, effective Oct. 22. His previous place of service was Popps Ferry Church in Biloxi. A native of Olive Branch, Snipes received his education at Union University, Jackson, Tenn. and Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

## Student missions conference will be held at New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS — A Student Missions Conference will be held at New Orleans Seminary, Nov. 9-11.

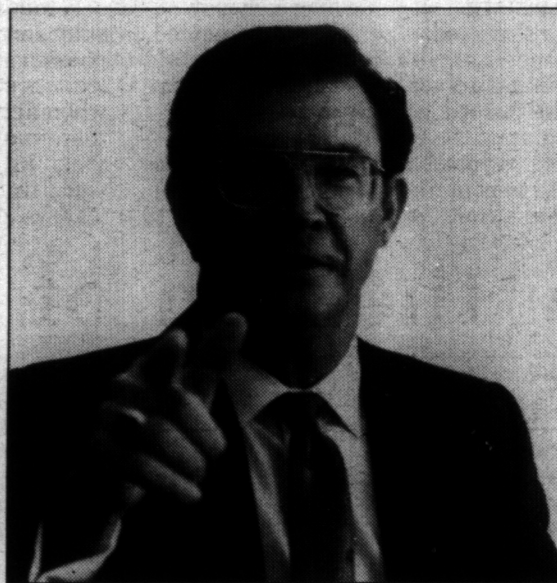
Featured speakers and guest artists include Jim McGriff, missionary to Guatemala; C. Mark Corts, of Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Bill and Martha Bacon, of First Church, Clinton; and Clayton Jordan, ventriloquist from First Church, Dothan, Ala.

Special topics to be covered include the US-2 program, the journeyman program, short-term missionary options, national student ministries, women in ministry, creatively communicating Christ, missions and per-

sonal growth, ingredients for a good missionary, the "ups" and "downs" of missionary service, and seminary options.

In addition, participants will look at creative ways students can be involved in missions, including a discussion of semester missions, and the Innovator and S.P.O.T.S. programs.

The cost of \$12 covers meals and housing. For more information, contact Waylon Bailey, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126, or call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3244; or Office of Continuing Education, ext. 3260.



## Hey, layman... Let's talk some hard-nosed business

Some things we do cooperatively; some we do individually. For some things we share responsibility. For others we are solely responsible.

Gifts through the Cooperative Program allow every church to have a small part in the ministry of each and every missionary in 116 different countries. The cooperative effort of all churches ensures adequate income, retirement and insurance protection for every missionary. We do this **together**.

But there is something each church does **alone**. It calls a pastor. The members pray, choose the pastor, vote to extend a call, and the pastor serves by mutual agreement for an indefinite period. Southern Baptist churches are free and independent. Good! But with freedom comes responsibility.

When you call a pastor or other full-time staff member you, as a church, are **solely** responsible for that person's financial needs and ministry expenses. Pastoral and staff support are part of the cost of doing the business of the local church.

A few weeks ago President Bush ordered thousands of military personnel, dozens of ships and hundreds of planes sent to the Persian Gulf on a vital mission. Nobody asked the men and women to pay for a ticket or a truck. We all paid for the trip and the armament with tax dollars.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth about paying the preacher. He used a military analogy: "Did you ever hear of a man serving in the army at his own expense?" (I Cor. 9:7a NEB)

Nobody would ever enter the ministry because of its potential for wealth. But nobody ought to serve in poverty, either.

The freedom to call carries the God-ordained responsibility to address with integrity the needs of your minister.

Too often, the last item considered in preparation of the church budget is salaries and benefits. Let's make a change for 1991. Every church ought to see that the pastor and any other full-time staff member has adequate salary, a church-funded medical plan, life and disability protection and the Church Annuity Plan.

And you shouldn't consider protection coverages and church ministry-related expenses to be minister's *pay*. You should budget these items separately from the minister's salary. Otherwise, people will think the minister is paid much more than he actually is.

Scripture demands that God's servants be properly supported by the churches they serve.

Each local church is solely responsible for its staff. Think about it. Pray about it. Provide adequately. Pay appropriately. Demonstrate your love.



**Paul W. Powell**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention  
P.O. Box 2190, Dallas, TX 75221-2190

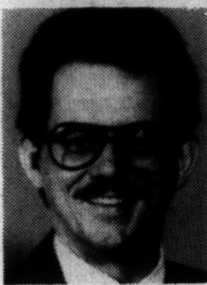


# "Change your ways," demands Jeremiah

By Bob Rogers

Jeremiah 26:1-6, 12-16

A preacher leaves his wife to marry another woman in his church. When challenged about his action, the preacher says, "I'm saved by grace, and God has forgiven me." Such a story is outrageous, yet this kind of immorality goes on in our churches, often with the same kind of religious rationalization. Jeremiah confronted such hypocrisy at the risk of his own life in this Sunday's lesson, Jeremiah 26:1-6, 12-16.



Rogers

The righteous king Josiah had been killed (2 Kings 23:29-30), leaving the throne to his son, Jehoiakim, in about 609 B.C. By this time, the Jews had come to the false conclusion that God would protect them and their temple, no matter what they did. They supposed that since God promised David an everlasting house (2 Samuel 7:12-13) and God had miraculously protected

## UNIFORM

them during King Hezekiah's reign (Isaiah 37:35-36), it was impossible to "violate" Jerusalem. Jeremiah 7:4 quoted the popular chant of the people loyal to this corrupted doctrine: "Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these."

The people of Jerusalem failed to understand that God's promises to mankind are conditional, depending on how we respond to him. Jonah, for instance, was told to preach punishment to Nineveh; but when the city repented, God responded with forgiveness. God told Jeremiah that if Jerusalem would obey, "I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings" (vs. 3). The verb "repent" used here of God does not mean God needs to make a moral change, but simply means that God reserves the right to

change plans, if the people make a moral change.

If God can change from punishment to blessing when people turn back to him, then it also follows that God can change from protection to destruction when his people disobey. Jeremiah warned that because of their disobedience, "Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all nations of the earth" (vs. 6). Shiloh had been destroyed, and even the ark of the Lord had been taken by the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 4:11). This sermon so infuriated the religious establishment in Jerusalem that they called for Jeremiah's death (vss. 7-8).

A public meeting was called to silence Jeremiah (vs. 10). The priests and prophets said Jeremiah should die "for he hath prophesied against this city" (vs. 11). The religious leaders saw themselves as defenders of truth, when actually they were defending their own man-made creed. The doctrine of the inviolability of Jerusalem was a perversion of God's word. Jeremiah appealed to the political leaders ("princes") and the rest of the people:

"The Lord sent me to prophesy against the city . . . Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God; and the Lord will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you" (vss. 12-13). Thus Jeremiah reinterpreted their doctrine, making it conditional on obedience.

Jeremiah then spoke in defense of himself, saying, "if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves" (vs. 15). The princes and people sided with Jeremiah against the priests and prophets. A leader named Ahikam was instrumental in saving Jeremiah (vs. 24). Ahikam was the son of Shaphan, perhaps the same Shaphan who read the rediscovered book of the law to Josiah (2 Kings 22:10-11). If so, Ahikam remembered how a previous generation had responded to God with repentance instead of self-righteous wrath.

Questions to consider:

1. What is the difference between scripture and creed? Which is unchanging?
2. List three religious excuses for immoral living. How would you answer each excuse?

Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

## Getting to know the Son of God — personally

By Jim Smith

John 1:35-51

How do you get to know someone? First, you must meet that person. You may be introduced by a friend or the events of life may place



Smith

you together at the same time and place. Many relationships are affected tremendously by first impressions. All too often, decisions are made based upon the first few minutes of initial contact with another person. While we may make decisions to continue or to terminate associations based upon initial contacts, we certainly can not say we "know" the persons involved. We come to "know" people only by having the desire and willingness to spend time with them, watching, listening, and talking with them.

The opening passage of scripture for this week begins with John the Baptist giving two of his disciples a personal introduction to Jesus in the form of his testimony: "... Behold the Lamb of God." This testimony of John was enough to prick the interest of his disciples to

## LIFE AND WORK

want to know more about Jesus.

These two followed Jesus, seeking to learn more about him, who he was, what he was, and what he was doing with his life. Today we have the testimony of "so great a cloud of witnesses." Those who desire to know more about Jesus have both the Old and New Testaments to reveal his person, his purpose, and his passion. Surely our desire to know more about Jesus is pricked by what we have heard others say about him.

Jesus perceived them. He turned to speak to the trailing disciples, saying in effect, What do you want? Why are you following me? What do you seek? But on a much deeper plane. What are you truly seeking in life? He poses that question to would-be followers today. We must all decide what we seek in life and make our commitments to achieve it. We must follow Jesus for the right reason.

Out of respect for John's witness, and possibly upon the revelation by God the Father, the disciples address Jesus by the term of respect, Rabbi (Master). They continue their dialogue by asking "... where do you live?" It seems like a simple question, but is one of desire to know

more about the person of Jesus. You can tell a lot about a person by the people he associates with and the place he chooses (assuming he has a choice) to dwell.

Jesus extends an invitation to the two disciples who came seeking "truth." An invitation is offered to us today to become better acquainted with Jesus, to learn who he is and about his purpose.

They spent the remainder of the day (from 4 p.m.) listening, observing, and speaking with Jesus, willingly learning about him and his mission. We know that Andrew was convinced of the purpose and person of Jesus because he tells his brother Simon, "We have found the Messiah . . ." Andrew, who was always bringing others to Christ, shared the Good News with a person for whom he had great love and concern, his brother, and he brought him to Jesus. Impetuous Peter willingly comes and willingly commits to follow Christ.

We also see Philip, after being called by Jesus, going to find his brother Nathanael in order to bring him to Jesus. Nathanael is more skeptical than Peter. His skepticism probably reflects his knowledge of the Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. It is not wrong to have a question-

ing nature; many today are skeptical. It is wrong to allow your questions to cause you undue distress that keeps you from trusting in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Jesus saw Nathanael as a person sincerely seeking answers for himself, unwilling to take the word of even his brother concerning such an important claim as the coming of the Messiah. In answer to his question, Jesus indicates he saw him and knew his thoughts before Philip came to witness to him. Jesus knows our hearts and minds and we can hide nothing from him. He understood Nathanael's desire to know the "truth." He understands our desire today.

Nathanael's initial doubtful response to his brother's witness had been allayed. Having found the Messiah, he also found the "truth" and acknowledges Jesus as the "Son of God" and the "King of Israel."

Jesus promises Nathanael that his initial experience and acknowledgement were only the first of many experiences which would be greater and more revealing to those who desire to know him in truth. He promises no less today to those who can totally commit themselves and their lives to him.

Smith is pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian.

## Jesus instructs his disciples in a new standard

By Lannie Wilbourn

Luke 6:12-49

When did you last hear of an all night prayer meeting? Jesus prayed all night (vs.12) before choosing the apostles from among the larger



Wilbourn

group of disciples. Choosing the apostles was one of the most important events of Jesus' ministry. Luke pointed out the importance of prayer in our Lord's life. Example is an excellent teacher. Personnel decisions are difficult in any business. After hiring new employees the next step is training.

Good instructions are vital to productive employment.

Jesus began the training immediately after choosing the twelve. His message was for all disciples, but those chosen for special service paid special attention to the demands of discipleship. He told them to expect the same treatment he would receive. They would be received in the same way the faithful and fearless prophets of the Old Testament were received. Amos was ejected from the king's palace in Samaria. Jeremiah was tortured in Jerusalem. Hosea endured public scorn. Ezekiel was exiled.

Most were ridiculed. All were ignored by the majority of the population to whom they preached.

The disciples listening to Jesus's sermon

## BIBLE BOOK

were being told the rejection from the religious community would get worse. Those who had participated in the synagogue would be excluded because of Jesus. It was like being unwelcome in your childhood home church. Jesus gave encouragement that seemed ridiculous. Who could "leap for joy" (vs.23) because of ridicule, exclusion, and insult? Answer: those who were more interested in their heavenly Father's approval than their peers' approval! Another motivation to faithfulness in the face of hard times is the promise of reward greater than the sacrifice (vs. 23b). The smallest heavenly reward is greater than the largest earthly reward. One is eternal while the other is temporary!

Jesus introduced a new standard for relationships for his disciples live by. They were to respond to people without self-interest. The NIV translates vs.32a as, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" The word "credit" attempts to interpret the Greek word for "grace." The point is this: God's grace becomes an operative principle in the lives of disciples.

What we receive from God we use for people. God's grace is seen in the lives of believers. There is no "credit" for a believer to live with the same self-interest as an unbeliever. Frank Staggs expressed this truth well, "... love is not

motivated by the goodness or beauty of the other. It seeks to bring about goodness and beauty in others."

Reward is a big factor in much of what we do in life. The stock question for new ventures is, "What is in it for me?" It is also the unspoken question of many new relationships. Disciples of Jesus Christ are to live by a different standard. Our relationships are to carry the marks of the master. John Bunyan expressed this truth in *The Shepherd Boy's Song*, "My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought his battles who now will be my rewarder."

Jesus presented instructions for disciples in paradoxical form with "blessings" paralleled by "woes." He points out what it means to lose one's life for him also.

The earthquake predicted for the central United States on December 3 reminds us of the unstable nature of the earth.

Jesus warned his disciples of the unstable

nature of building one's life on any system of values other than his (vss. 46-49).

Life's problems and threats come with torrential force. We must anchor our lives to the "Rock of Ages." The perennial problem is hearing without heeding. The probing question is whether we have acted decisively on what we heard?

"Lord" was a term used for a broad range of expression in Jesus' day. It could mean the same as our "sir." It was also used for the deified rulers of the day.

Christians confronted this problem when commanded to bow to deified Roman emperors. The common thread in the use of "Lord" then and now is the thread of authority. To call one "Lord" is to recognize his authority over the speaker. We call Jesus Lord and recognize his authority over us by how we carry out his instructions.

Wilbourn is pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon.

## Churches adopt expanded annuity

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Church Annuity Plan since those reported in the September 13 issue of the *Baptist Record*: Calhoun: College Hill; Neshoba: New Bethel; Northwest: Emmanuel; Simpson: Bethlehem; Union County: Amaziah; Wayne: Evergreen; and Yazoo: Bentonla.



# capsules

## FMB will appeal ruling

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board will appeal a \$1.56 million legal judgment against it to the Virginia Supreme Court.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said the board would move to the next step in the appeals process after a Richmond Circuit Court judge upheld a seven-member jury's verdict in a suit waged by a former missionary to Africa on behalf of her four children.

The board has three months to file formal petitions of appeal with the Virginia Supreme Court after an October ruling by Judge T.J. Markow upheld the verdict by the jury in July. Markow presided at the five-day trial.

Parks said the verdict threatens "the financial viability of religious agencies anywhere" by making them legally liable for the personal behavior of their employees — in this case a father's sexual abuse of his daughters.

"We do as careful screening as anyone," Parks said. "There's no way we can guarantee good behavior as much as we try."

Under Virginia law, the state's Supreme Court is not obliged to hear every appeal. If it refuses to hear the case, the verdict will stand.

## Conference center figures are up

NASHVILLE (BP) — The inauguration of Sunday School fast track conferences and increased participation in Home Mission Board conferences pushed 1990 conference center attendance figures up by 1,705 over last year, statistics reveal.

Combined summer conference center attendance at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers was 54,870 compared to 53,165 in 1989, according to statistics compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board's conference center section.

Attendance at Ridgecrest increased 272 over 1989, and Glorieta was up by 1,433. These figures include a Centrifuge attendance of 10,575 at the two conference centers.

## Baptists witness amid New Age expo

ATLANTA (BP) — With psychic readers working on one side and mediums channeling spirits around the corner, Southern Baptists told New Age adherents how to have a Christian transformation.

"The Magnificent You Expo" attracted 1,000 people to Atlanta for two days of New Age workshops and exhibits. One booth featured 'metal headgear shaped like a pyramid to help concentrate the energies of the cosmos. Occult bookstores, magic shops, and information on reincarnation were represented, as well as incense and music for meditation.

One booth featured books with the title "Born to Be Reborn." The books were not philosophies of reincarnation

but New Testaments, featuring Jesus' claim that people must be born again.

"We don't argue with the people here, we just try to get them to look at the New Testament with an open mind," said Bill Gordon, national missionary with the Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department.

By the end of the exposition, Gordon and trained volunteers had distributed more than 70 New Testaments and 500 tracts.

## Tenery resigns

MORGANTON, N.C. (ABP) — Robert Tenery, one of the leading fundamental-conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned the pastorate of Burkemont Baptist Church in Morganton, N.C.

Tenery, 58, had no immediate plans and cited "turmoil in the church" as the reason for his resignation of the pastorate he has held 19 years.

"I am dealing with some pulpits committees," Tenery told Associated Baptist Press. "I am just praying that something will work out for my ministry."

For the past several years Tenery has been "interim editor" of the Southern Baptist Advocate, the publication of fundamental-conservatives in the SBC. He assumed the editorship after the resignation of founding editor Russell Kaemmerling of Dallas in 1985.

## Teachers sought for China

RICHMOND, Va. — Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization, is seeking Southern Baptist teachers to spend summer and school-year terms teaching English in China next year. Shorter-term personnel will teach English to Chinese schoolteachers July 3-Aug. 19. The other group, to be assigned for one or two years, will teach English to Chinese college students. Interested people should write Bill Peacock (six-week term) or Glenn Prescott (school-year term) at CSI, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230, or call 804-353-0151.

## South Carolina calls meeting about Furman

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ABP) — The General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention will be called into special session Nov. 12 to consider action by Furman University to revise its charter to create a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

Furman University trustees, meeting in called session Oct. 15, voted to amend its charter to give the board sole power to elect trustees. Since its founding in 1826, trustees have been elected by the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

The executive committee of the General Board met in emergency session Oct. 18 to consider response to the Furman action.

After the meeting, Ken Harmon, pastor of First Church, Newberry, S.C., chairman of the executive committee, announced the special meeting of the 87-member General Board will be called for 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, "to further discuss this matter and make other decisions about the resolution of it."

## FMB appoints 14

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board has named 14 people to attend a Nov. 5-20 orientation and then work overseas through its International Service Corps (ISC) program.

In addition, the board has chosen another 14 ISC workers who will go to the field exempt from orientation because of previous overseas experience.

Five people were selected for assignment with Cooperative Services International, including a Bible printer to work with Amity Press, the Chinese Christian publishing operation.

Ethan McCarty, Rt. 3, Taylorsville, Miss. has been assigned to Cooperative Services International as an English-language worker in Asia for two years. McCarty, a graduate of Jones County Community College and University of Southern Mississippi, is a member of First Church, Soso.

## Church in Kuwait feeds hungry

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Lay leaders at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City have begun conducting worship services again and feeding the hungry, according to reports.

Several Philippine evacuees from Kuwait have reported to pastor Jerry Zanstra that five Philippine lay leaders are conducting worship services at the church. Iraqi soldiers are attending services and are not disrupting worship, the evacuees said. Zanstra and his family were in the United States for the summer when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Other reports said Iraqi soldiers had asked a Catholic priest in Kuwait City if services could be conducted. A Catholic cathedral is located about two blocks from the evangelical church.

Reports from inside Kuwait indicate evangelical church members also are feeding hungry Asians.

## EBF welcomes Jordanians

DEBRON, NETHERLANDS (ebps) — The European Baptist Federation reached out even further towards the East during the annual meeting of the EBF Council, held in De Bron, Netherlands, Sept. 25-29. Nearly 80 Council members from 23 countries expressed their joy in receiving as their 28th member-body the Jordan Baptist Convention. Jordanian Baptists number between 400 and 500 members in eight churches.

## Cooking up Christians

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Southern Baptist missionary Judith Richards and Ching Mei Baptist Church in Taipei are using a cooking class to reach people. Richards developed a cookbook including recipes for Western dishes, along with short devotionals. Three of the 10 class members in the first group were Christian. But during a graduation ceremony attended by members' families, all seven non-Christians said they wanted to learn more about Jesus. "

# What's fair?

By Lounette Templeton

NOTE TO EDITORS: Erin Thomas, the Southern Baptist teacher who survived the Oct. 2 crash landing of a hijacked plane in Guangzhou, China, has returned to Oklahoma City, where she is receiving treatment at the Baptist Burn Center. Thomas' mother, Diane Ames, shared the page 1 reflection, "Unfinished Work," with Southern Baptist missionary writer Lounette Templeton while Ames was in Hong Kong helping her daughter prepare for transit to the United States. Templeton also wrote a meditation — "What's fair?" — about the death of Thomas' Southern Baptist colleague, Mary Anna Gilbert of Alexander City, Ala., who did not survive the crash. It follows:

"It's not fair."  
How many times have I heard this lament from my children? And how many times have I replied, "It's not a just world we live in."

But recently I found myself lamenting, too.

It's not fair that a 23-year-old girl should die in a senseless plane crash halfway around the world from her home.

It's not fair that Mary Anna Gilbert, eager to make her life useful to others, died because a hijacker gambled his life away — and the lives of at least 127 others.

It's not fair that Mary Anna died only two months after her arrival in China to teach Chinese young people — young Chinese like the hijacker.

Mary Anna went to China with Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist service organization that helps teachers and others secure positions in China. She had begun teaching English at Jia Ying University in Meixian.

Almost immediately after the crash landing of the hijacked Chinese plane in Guangzhou, those of us across the border in Hong Kong heard of the accident that also involved an airliner loaded with passengers waiting for takeoff to Shanghai.

Hong Kong news reports focused on the families of victims and their criticism of the Chinese airline and government officials. Families from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan were demanding greater compensation than the amount China had announced.

The cleaning woman who works for me once a week arrived full of opinions about the accident. Ah Fong is not a Christian. She's a tough, self-sufficient, unemotional individual who can handle anything. She has an answer for everything, even when there's no question.

That morning, I told Ah Fong that two American girls had been on the plane. They were both Christians, I explained, and one had escaped while one had not. I told her that the dead girl's father is a pastor and that he and his wife had sent a letter to China thanking the Chinese government and the airlines for their help in the aftermath of the tragedy.

The tough old lady who always has the last word stared at me, then turned and hurried out of the room. But not before I saw a tear in the corner of her eye.

No, it's not fair that Mary Anna died. It's not fair that it takes the death of a good person to touch hardened hearts. Who better than God himself knows that?

The world in which we live is not just. But the world to which we go most certainly is.

# Concerns of Virginians "not heard," report says

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Concerns of Virginia Baptists about the relationship between the state association and the Southern Baptist Convention "were not heard," a report issued Oct. 18 says.

The Baptist General Association of Virginia's two-year attempt to present a statement of concerns to Southern Baptists "has not been realized," the BGAV's Committee on the Denominational Crisis said in a report to be presented at the association's annual meeting Nov. 13-14.

Messengers will receive the report from the committee, ending a process that began in 1988 with approval of a "memorial" to be presented to Southern Baptists.

The memorial expressed Virginia Baptists' discomfort with the more conservative direction taken by the SBC since 1979 and asked the SBC messengers to the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC to consider five items.

The requests were: that the relationship between the SBC and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs be maintained; that "negative designation" be made part of the unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program; that the SBC foster "serious" theological education; that the SBC president appoint to the conventions' committee on committees persons nominated by the BGAV; and that the national convention develop a "new style of relating" with state conventions.

The memorial was referred to the

SBC Executive Committee, which formed a liaison committee. Following discussions with the BGAV committee earlier last year, the liaison committee released its final report in September 1989, citing the "autonomy of each Baptist body." It did not recommend any "five requests."

Baptist Record

November 8, 1990